

Samaritan
Ethics
Course

To: Eddie Merrell

Fax:

From: Rebecca

Date: 5/7/47

Pages: 3 including cover

For Marga Razona

fax

From the office of the President...

Sandra L. Robinson
Samaritan
P.O. Box 688
Lewisville, TX 75067(972) 221-7149
Fax: (972) 221-7345

Course and Instructor Evaluation

Instructor **Rev. Marge Ragona** **Course** Christian Ethics
Location **Atlanta, GA** **Trimester** 1T 1997

This evaluation will provide Samaritan Institute with important information concerning the quality of courses and instruction. It is part of an on-going process to continue to meet the needs of our students and ensure academic excellence. Please give your careful consideration to each question.

1 Indicates you disagree strongly with the statement. 5 Indicates you agree strongly with the statement.

Course Evaluation

- | Disagree | | | | | Agree | | | | | |
|----------|---|---|---|---|-------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | 1. The class met as scheduled, beginning and ending at the announced times.
Comments: |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | | 2. The required text books and materials were relevant and important for the course.
Comments: |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | | 3. The assignments were meaningful and facilitated learning of the course content.
Comments: |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | | 4. The course was well organized, following a logical presentation of the material.
Comments: |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | | 5. The program has provided me with information I consider valuable.
Comments: |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | | 6. Facilities and classroom helped the learning experience.
Comments: |

Instructor Evaluation

- | Disagree | | | | | Agree | | | | | |
|----------|---|---|---|---|-------|---|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | 1. Faculty seemed knowledgeable in the subject matter.
Comments: |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | | 2. Faculty showed enthusiasm for the subject matter.
Comments: |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | | 3. Faculty communicated the subject matter clearly and effectively.
Comments: |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | | 4. The course objectives were met.
Comments: |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | | 5. Faculty was accessible and available to answer questions.
Comments: |

Additional Comments:

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2026 with funding from
CLIR DHC Grant 2026-2028

<https://archive.org/details/2174.12.03>

OFFICIAL GRADE FORM

SAMARITAN Post Office Box 688 Lewisville, Texas 75067 972/221-7749 Fax 972/221-7345

Date: 05/07/97
Page: 1
Course ID: SAMA-00691

Course Title: Christian Ethics

Faculty: M. Ragona

Credit: 3.00

Trimester: 1T 1997

District: GLAD

Student Number	Student Name	Grade
541	Wanda Y Floyd	_____
549	Edgar Miller	_____
503	Lee W Rahe	_____
508	Sandra L Rice	_____
507	Carlene Wood	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Faculty Signature: _____ Date: _____

By signing this Official Grade report, faculty certify that students have completed all required course work and the student has earned the grade assigned. All students must be assigned a grade. Grades of 'W' (Withdraw) or 'I' (incomplete) must be explained in writing by the faculty to the Academic Dean of Samaritan and should be attached to this form.

OFFICIAL GRADE FORM

REMARKS: (To be filled in by the teacher. This space is for the use of the teacher only.)

Date: 05/15/1917
Page: 2
Course: 1st Year - 1917

Teacher's Name: Christiana Brown	Grade: 1.00
Student's Name: N. Brown	Class: 1.00
Teacher's Address: 1234	

Student Number	Student Name	Grade
101	Wanda V. Brown	
102	Edgar Miller	
103	Lee S. Brown	
104	Richard J. Brown	
105	Carlton Brown	

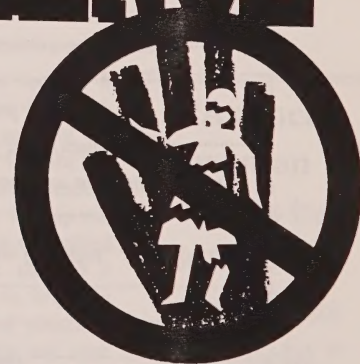
Date:

Teacher's Signature:

It is agreed that this form shall be filled out by the teacher and signed by the principal. It is further agreed that the principal shall not sign this form unless it is filled out by the teacher. It is further agreed that the principal shall not sign this form unless it is filled out by the teacher. It is further agreed that the principal shall not sign this form unless it is filled out by the teacher.

APPENDIX H

BREAKING THE SILENCE OF VIOLENCE



**A Handbook on
Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse
for Clergy, Religious Counselors, Lay Workers,
and Religious Community Professionals**

The Committee on the Status of Women
The Office of Women in Mission and Ministry
The Episcopal Church Center
815 Second Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10017

The Committee on the Status of Women (CSW)

The mission of the Committee on the Status of Women is to investigate and advocate the full participation of women in the life of the Episcopal Church, and to advise the Church on theological, educational, health, and socioeconomic issues that affect the conditions of women's lives.

The mission is undertaken in the context of our baptismal covenant, which binds us to "persevere in resisting evil," to "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being," and to "proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ."

We believe that one aspect of the Good News is that all are one in Christ Jesus—female and male—and we rejoice that we have been called to minister in a time in which new implications of that unity in Christ are being realized.

CSW and the Committee on Sexual Exploitation are task forces appointed by the Presiding Bishop which are responsible for supporting and advising the Presiding Bishop and the Executive Council on matters affecting the participation of women in the Church. Members of the Episcopal Church are not immune to domestic violence, sexual abuse, child abuse and neglect. These are very real issues which touch all of us in some way. Fortunately, in the Episcopal Church, Executive Council and General Convention resolutions mandate that we address the issues of violence in our Church and society.

CSW may be contacted through the Women in Mission and Ministry Office at the Episcopal Church Center, 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017 (800) 334-7626.

The statistics used in this booklet are taken from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the March of Dimes, the Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence, and the Massachusetts Coalition for Battered Women unless otherwise stated.

This booklet was produced and funded by the Committee on the Status of Women and the Office of Women in Mission and Ministry.

Revised in 1993 by Zibilla L. Wolfe.

Contents

Why Should I Become Involved?	4
Some Frightening Facts.....	4
Factors Contributing to Domestic Violence	7
Defining and Identifying Abuse	8
Physical Violence Checklist.....	8
Psychological and Economic Abuse Checklist.....	8
Indicators of Abuse	10
Indicators of Childhood Sexual Abuse for an Adult Survivor	10
Indicators of Sexual Abuse for a Child Victim.....	11
Indicators of Violent, Psychological, and/or Emotional Child Abuse	11
How to Help Victims of Abuse	13
Dealing with Abusers.....	14
Sample Article.....	15
Worship Service Ideas	16
Resources	22
Appendix:	
Executive Council and General Convention Resolutions.....	27
Current National Government Legislation—the Violence Against Women Acts	31
Suggested Political Action	32
Current Church Action—the Church Insurance Company Policy	33

Why Should I Become Involved?

Through your work as a spiritual leader in your congregation and community you have encountered the problem already. Since one out of two women will be a victim of domestic violence in her lifetime, the chances are high that someone in your parish or community is a victim of abuse. As a spiritual and community leader in your area, you are in a position to help break the silence of violence, to end the abuse. You are an important person to people in their time of need. You offer them individual care, marital help, and assistance in family living. Many victims and survivors of domestic violence have strong religious convictions and turn toward their church for support and counsel. You are in a unique position to spot the indicators of domestic violence and abuse, and to help the victims.

It is important that we recognize domestic violence and abuse as a problem of tremendous proportions.

Some frightening facts:

- Every 15 seconds a woman is beaten (3 million in a year)
- 1 out of 2 women will be a victim of domestic violence in her lifetime
- 1 out of 3 families will experience episodes of domestic violence
- Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women—more than automobile accidents, rape and muggings
- Across the country there are 4 intimate femicides every day
- A woman is at the highest risk of further violence and even death when she leaves her violent home or seeks a restraining order
- More than 50% of all residential calls that police respond to are domestic violence
- Every 6 minutes a woman is raped
- 25% of female college students will be raped; of that number 84% will know their attacker, and only 5% will report the rape to the police
- 51% of male college students say they would rape if they were certain they could get away with it
- 1 out of every 7 married women is the victim of marital rape

- Only 2–3% of all men who rape outside of marriage go to prison for their crimes
- 52% of men convicted of rape will be arrested again within 3 years
- Rape victims are at risk of sexually transmitted diseases, exposure to the HIV virus, unintended pregnancies, depression, suicide, fear, and drug or alcohol abuse
- 1 out of 3 girls and 1 out of 5 boys will be sexually abused before the age of 18
- Domestic violence against pregnant women is the leading cause of low birth weight babies, making them highly susceptible to birth defects
- 81% of all batterers come from violent homes
- A major study of children at battered women's shelters showed that nearly 70% were themselves victims of physical abuse and nearly half had been victims of sexual abuse
- A study of violent offenders in prison showed that at least 80% came from homes which had histories of domestic violence
- By the age of 18, the average youth in this country will have watched 250,000 acts of violence and 40,000 attempted murders on television
- 1 out of 8 Hollywood movies depicts a rape theme

Please take the time to read this booklet. It contains many lists and resources for quick reference. To help you recognize some of the conditions that lead to and allow for violence and abuse in the home, you will find a list of factors that contribute to domestic violence. To help you and the known or suspected battering or battered spouse define and identify abuse, there is a checklist. There is also a section to help you recognize some of the indicators of childhood abuse and neglect—both for children and adult survivors of childhood abuse. And finally, there are some suggestions about how to help victims of abuse and how to deal with abusers.

In the back of the booklet you will find a sample article for your service leaflet and/or newsletter, as well as some ideas for a worship service.

“As each woman realizes her power, she transforms the world.”

—Patrice Wynne

Use the article, worship service and the booklet as they best serve the people in your community. It is important that you inform people of your concern over domestic violence, as well as telling them that you and various community and national agencies are available to help.

Your own faith and religious training is a great help to those who come to you. The spirits of those beaten down by domestic violence can be lifted by the steadfast reassurance that God has better and kinder things in store for them than they have experienced. The abused can find the comfort and the courage to heal, and the abusers can develop the honesty to address their behavior, be forgiven, and learn to live anew. Though you may not be an expert in family violence, you are a symbol of God's commitment to human health. You can therefore, with confidence, guide the victims/survivors and the abusers toward the resources they need for their healing and wholeness. You offer the peace, compassion, integrity, and respect that God wills for all of us. Clearly, no one should have to live in fear, especially not in one's own home.

Our baptismal vows require that we pledge ourselves with God's help to strive for justice and peace among all peoples and that we respect the dignity of every human being. We also are mandated by specific resolutions of the Episcopal Church to work within our society to stop the escalation of domestic violence against spouses, children, and the elderly. There are existing and pending policies and legislation in both the Episcopal Church and our government which address domestic violence. To familiarize yourself with the existing policies and learn how you can help the passage of the pending ones, please refer to the Appendix in the back of this booklet.

Factors Contributing to Domestic Violence

The following list contains some, but not all, of the conditions, stress factors, and situations that may lead and contribute to domestic violence and abuse. Be aware of these conditions, stress factors, and situational clues if you suspect a problem:

- Societal attitudes that condone violence
- Community tolerance of violence or oppression
- Learned aggression as a means of dealing with stress
- Lack of behavioral control due to drug/alcohol abuse
- The cycle of abused becoming abuser
- Common stress factors and situations:
 - Economic stress (unable to fulfill stereotyped male role of "family provider")
 - Unemployment (being laid off)
 - Geographic and/or social isolation of the family
 - Medical problems or special needs in the family
 - Pregnancy
 - Inadequate parenting skills
 - Rigid family structure and/or rigid sex roles that allow for the misuse of power (parents over children; husbands over wives)
 - The weekend (alcohol and sports games)

Defining and Identifying Abuse

The following checklist, adapted from **Men Stopping Violence** in Atlanta and **Emerge** in Boston, can be used as an indicator of violent and abusive behaviors. If you suspect or know of abuse, have the battering/abusive spouse check those things which he has done, or have the survivor check those things which have been done to her.

Physical Violence Checklist

- ___ Step, punch, grab, kick, choke, push, restrain, pull hair, pinch, bite
- ___ Rape (use of force, threats or coercion to obtain sex)
- ___ Use of weapons, throwing things, keeping weapons around which frighten her
- ___ Intimidation (standing in the doorway during arguments, angry or threatening gestures, use of size to intimidate, standing over her, outshouting, driving recklessly)
- ___ Uninvited touching
- ___ Threats (verbal or nonverbal, direct or indirect)
- ___ Harassment (uninvited visits or calls, following her around, checking up on her, embarrassing her in public, not leaving when asked)
- ___ Isolation (preventing or making it hard for her to see/talk to friends, relatives, others)
- ___ Others (please list)

Psychological and Economic Abuse Checklist

- ___ Yelling, swearing, being lewd, raising your voice, using angry expressions or gestures
- ___ Criticism (name-calling, swearing, mocking, put-downs, ridicule, accusations, blaming, use of trivializing words or gestures)
- ___ Pressure tactics (rushing her to make decisions, using guilt/accusations, sulking, threatening to withhold financial support, manipulating children, bandwagoning, abusing feelings)
- ___ Interrupting, changing topics, not listening, not responding, twisting her words, topic stringing, economic coercion (withholding money, the car, or other resources; sabotaging her attempts to work)

- ___ Claiming "the truth," being the authority, defining her behavior, using "logic"
- ___ Lying, withholding information, infidelity
- ___ Using pornography (e.g. magazines, movies, strip shows, home videos, etc.)
- ___ Withholding help on childcare/housework; not doing your share or following through on your agreements
- ___ Emotional withholding (not expressing feelings, not giving support, validation, attention, compliments, respect for her feelings, rights, and opinions)
- ___ Not taking care of yourself (not asking for help or support from friends, abusing drugs or alcohol, being a "people pleaser")
- ___ Other forms of manipulation (please list)

**"Sexual abuse isn't
any more about sex
than alcohol abuse
is about thirst."**

—Tery Kellogg

Indicators of Abuse

Childhood sexual, violent, psychological and emotional abuse is often blocked from the child's memory until the nightmares later emerge to be dealt with in their adult life. For this reason, we have separate lists of abuse indicators for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse and child victims of sexual abuse. Do not overlook the child that needs to be heard inside so many adults.

Indicators of Childhood Sexual Abuse for an Adult Survivor

The following list¹ contains some of the indicators and results of childhood sexual abuse that you should be aware of in recognizing an adult survivor of childhood abuse:

- Damage to self-esteem and self-image: feeling ugly inside, worthless, in the way; a tendency to over-apologize, feel stupid, a failure, a loser; guilt feelings and feelings of shame; tendency to blame oneself, to sabotage success, to be victimized by others; feeling of helplessness
- Relationship problems: difficulty trusting others, distant, aloof; tendency to be involved with destructive people who abuse one physically, verbally, emotionally, or sexually; lack of empathy; sense of isolation; difficulty with physical affection; difficulty with authority figures; difficulty communicating and receiving from others
- Sexual problems: lack of sexual desire or inhibition of sexual feelings; sexual dysfunctions such as painful intercourse; promiscuity; attraction to illicit sexual activities such as pornography and prostitution; anger and disgust at any public display of affection; sexual manipulation; sexual addiction
- Difficulties in expressing emotions: intense anger and rage that sometimes burst out unexpectedly; mood swings, manic; chronic depression; dissociation, a "splitting off" from oneself that probably started as a protection from the pain and devastation of the abuse; extreme fears or phobias, such as using a public rest

¹ Parts of the indicator list have been taken from *The Right to Innocence*, by B. Engel, (New York: Ivy Books, 1989).

room or going to sleep; addiction to food, alcohol, or drugs; obsessive/compulsive behavior; eating disorders including anorexia (slow suicide, the need to disappear or be invisible), obesity (fear of being attractive, need to nurture self, need for extra padding as cushion against getting hurt so much), and bulimia (need to control what goes in and out of her body); abusive behavior (physically, verbally, emotionally, or sexually abusing others including children and animals); self-destructive behavior such as suicide attempts

- Physical problems: psychologically-based physical symptoms and illnesses; tendency to be accident-prone.

Indicators of Sexual Abuse for a Child Victim

The following list contains some of the indicators and results of child sexual abuse that you should be aware of in recognizing children who are currently, or have recently been, victimized. A child victim may also experience many of the indicators listed above for adult survivors.

- Pain or itching in genital area
- Difficulty in walking or sitting
- Bruises or bleeding in external genitalia
- Venereal disease or pregnancy
- Unwilling to change clothing when and where appropriate
- Withdrawal, fantasy, or infantile behavior
- Denial
- Sophisticated or unusual sexual behavior or knowledge
- Poor peer relationships
- Delinquent or run-away
- Reports sexual assault by caretaker or sibling

Indicators of Violent, Psychological, and/or Emotional Child Abuse

The following list contains some of the physical and behavioral indicators of violent, psychological, and/or emotional child abuse:

- Unexplained bruises and welts on face and body (in various stages of healing; clustered, forming regular patterns; reflecting shape of an article such as an electric cord or belt buckle used to inflict abuse; regularly appearing after an absence, weekend, or vacation)

- Unexplained burns from cigarettes and cigars, especially on palms, back, soles of feet, buttocks; immersion burns (sock-like, glove-like); pattern burns (electric iron etc.)
- Unexplained fractures to skull, nose; facial structure in various stages of healing
- Unexplained lacerations or abrasions to lips, mouth, eyes, or external genitalia
- Constant hunger
- Consistent inappropriate dress
- Unattended physical problems or needs (including poor hygiene)
- Abandonment
- Consistent lack of supervision (especially in potentially dangerous activities)
- Speech disorders
- Lags in physical development
- Failure-to-thrive
- Wary of adult contact; apprehensive when other children cry; behavioral extremes (aggressive or withdrawn); frightened of parents; reports injury by parents
- Begging or stealing food; extended stays at school, church, or community center (early arrival and late departure); constant fatigue, listlessness or falling asleep
- Alcohol or substance abuse
- Delinquency; states there is no caretaker
- Habit disorders (sucking, biting, rocking, etc.); conduct disorders (antisocial, destructive); neurotic traits (sleep disorders, inhibition); psychoneurotic reactions (hysteria, obsession, compulsion, phobias, hypochondria); overly adaptive behavior (inappropriately adult or infantile); development lags (mental and emotional); attempted suicide

Most, some, or none of these symptoms may be present. Some may be signs of other difficulties and problems. But considering statistics like one in every three women and one in every five men are sexually abused by the time they reach eighteen, these indicators are warning signals that need to be explored—even among people in our Church.

How to Help Victims of Abuse

If you recognize any of the signs or indications of abuse listed above, or if you have any other reason to suspect abuse, the following suggestions are guidelines of ways that you can help and interact with people you suspect or know to be victims/survivors of abuse.

- Know your community's resources, (there is a partial list of resources at the end of this booklet)
- Know how to get a restraining order
- Be observant; say, "I notice you have a bruise"
- Don't assume they are not being abused
- You may need to approach them more than once
- Ask if they feel safe
- Be discreet; don't put them or yourself at risk
- Telling is healing; listen for as long as they need to talk
- Believe them and let them know you believe
- Validate them; it's not their fault
- Don't tell them all the other stories you've heard
- Don't offer therapy; she is not sick; she is a victim, a survivor
- Don't offer marriage or couple counseling
- Respect the victim's judgement about the situation
- Do offer options, not advice

**"We're not bad, sick,
crazy, or stupid;
we're just wounded."**

—A Survivor

Dealing with Abusers

Remember that seemingly “nice people” outside of the home can be batterers and abusers in their family life. If you have reason to believe that someone is an abuser, the following list suggests some guidelines for dealing with them.

- Try to get them out of the home
- Refer them to group treatment
- Don’t offer confidentiality
- Believe that “nice people” can be guilty
- Don’t believe the lies:
 - Denial: “I didn’t do anything”
 - Blame: “She drove me to it”
 - Minimizing: “I only pushed her”
 - Patronizing: “I did it for her own good”
 - Excuses: “I was drunk”
 - Explanations: “She was out of control”
 - Promises: “I’ll never do it again”

**“In cases of domestic violence,
couple counseling is the worst
possible approach because it
puts the woman at risk.
Forgiveness does not mean
taking back the abuser.”**

—The Rev. Ms. Susan Lee

Sample Article

The following sample article is for you to place in your service leaflet, church newsletter, or whatever seems the best venue in your community. It is important that people know that the issue of domestic violence and sexual abuse is one that the church is concerned about and that the victims and abusers have somewhere to turn for help. **Please include any names or telephone numbers of appropriate social service agencies.**

Every 15 seconds a woman is beaten. That’s 3 million women in one year. We hear more and more today about the once hidden and untalked-about problem of domestic violence—the beating of a spouse, child, or elderly parent. Episcopalians are not immune to this type of violence. FBI statistics say that 1 out of 2 women will be the victim of domestic violence in her lifetime. This means that there is a pretty good chance that a woman you know, that may sit near you in church, or is reading this right now, has or will be a victim of some form of domestic violence.

Often it is our families that are the handiest targets for taking out our frustrations. They often seem to fail us in our greatest time of need. The stress of day-to-day living is tough, especially when there is a major adjustment like the birth of a child, a job lay off, or financial strain. We can add to stress by the way we handle the situation, by negative thinking or placing unrealistic demands on ourselves and others. If we don’t know how to work through our anxieties constructively, then the chances increase that physical, emotional, or psychological violence will occur.

Our baptismal vows require that we pledge ourselves with God’s help to strive for justice and peace among all peoples and that we respect the dignity of every human being—that means we respect our families and ourselves too. Unfortunately, we live in a society which condones and tolerates violence in many ways. The use of alcohol or drugs can often result in a loss of physical and mental self-control; we may hurt the very ones we love. No one ever asks to be hit. No child ever asks to be raped—yet, 1 out of 3 girls and 1 out of 5 boys will be sexually abused by the age of 18. Children and women are not always able to defend themselves.

If you have been abused by a family member, or a loved one has been abused—or if you let your anger turn to violence—seek help today. In any of these cases, contact your spiritual leader, or call a local social service agency specializing in domestic violence.

Worship Service Ideas

The following ideas² are available for you to incorporate into a worship service that responds to the issues of domestic violence and sexual abuse.

Greeting

Leader: Grace and peace be with you, from God, through our Savior, Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

People: And also with you.

Leader: O God, you have taught us that in turning to you we shall be saved, and that you will abundantly grant us your mercy. We ask you to enliven us with a sense of your grace, in order that we may find ourselves renewed in you, our creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. Amen.

Devotions for the Battered and Abused

Scripture: Psalm 22: 1-2, 14-15: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? I have cried desperately for help, but still it does not come. During the day I call to you my God, but you do not answer, I call at night but I get no rest....My strength is gone like water spilling on the ground. All my bones are out of joint; my heart is like melted wax. My throat is dry as dust, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth. You have left me dead in the dust.

Meditation: Where is God when things go wrong? Where is God in an unjust world? Where is God when someone is sexually abused? Where is God when someone is battered? Psalm 22 sings a bitter song of being abandoned by God. To ask such questions seems to many people sinful. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" was also the question of Jesus hanging on the cross. It is a question that must be asked of God, for only God can be responsible for the answer. It is a painful song that God gives us the freedom to sing.

Prayer: God, this is your world. How can it be so terrifying?... have you just abandoned us? Where were you during the rape? Where were

² Excerpts from "Litanies, Psalms, and Songs" from *Sexual Assault and Abuse* edited by Mary D. Pellauer, Barbara Chester, and Jane A. Boyajian. Copyright 1987 by Mary D. Pellauer, Barbara Chester, and Jane A. Boyajian. Reprinted by permission of HarperCollins Publishers Inc.

you during the beating? I ask these questions from a deeply wounded faith. I ache under my pain and ask that you not abandon me. Restore life and meaning to me. Amen.

Suggested Hymn—Amazing Grace

One or more of the following suggested readings may be used. If it is appropriate, readings from sources other than scripture may also be used.

Isaiah 52: 1-2, 7-10

Psalm 27

Psalm 55: 1-8

Romans 8: 31-39

Zechariah 13: 6

Luke 23: 32-38

Proverbs 24: 11-12

At this time a sermon may be preached; opportunity may be given for the person(s) who have been battered or sexually abused to reflect with the community on her or his experience; or a period of silent reflection may be held.

Affirmation of Faith

Leader: We trust that beyond the absence:

People: there is a presence.

L: That beyond the pain:

P: there can be healing.

L: That beyond the brokenness:

P: there can be wholeness.

L: That beyond the hurting:

P: there may be forgiveness.

L: That beyond the silence:

P: there may be the word.

L: That through the word:

P: there may be understanding.

ALL: That through all understanding: there is love.

Prayers of Forgiveness

L: Do you forgive yourself for any part you fear you have played in this abusive relationship, for the doubts and anxieties that have plagued you, for the twisting of all relationships in your life that this abuse has worked in you?

P: I do, with God's help.

L: Do you forgive us, the human and Christian community, for our silence and complicity as individuals and as a society, for allowing this abuse to have happened to you, and for our failures and inadequacies in reaching out to you and healing you when you needed us?

P: I do, with God's help.

L: Let us pray.

ALL: Ever-living and ever-gracious God, you care about the birds of the air and the flowers of the field, and even more about your children whom you have made in your image. We beg your forgiveness and the forgiveness of each other for this violation of your servant's body and spirit. Free us from the results of our hatred, suspicion, fear, and destructive deeds and feelings. Renew us in your Holy Spirit, that we may share in the life our Savior Jesus Christ has come to nurture in us. Amen.

L: The God of hope forgives us for failing each other. Because Christ has freed us, we have been anointed to liberate others. The Holy Spirit of love reigns in our hearts to renew our lives and strengthen our reconciliation.

**"Trouble is part of your life,
and if you don't share it,
you don't give the person
who loves you enough chance
to love you enough."**

—Dinah Shore

A Litany of the Word

Reading: Matthew 25: 35-46

Right: I was hungry and you gave me bread.

Left: I was thirsty and you gave me drink.

R: I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

L: I was naked and you clothed me.

R: I was sick and you visited me.

L: I was in prison and you came to me.

R: I was raped and you stood by me.

L: I was beaten and you sheltered me.

R: I was harassed and you helped me act.

L: I was abused and you intervened.

R: I was in pain and you comforted me.

L: I was bleeding and you staunch my wound.

R: I was orphaned and you mothered me.

L: I was alone and you took my hand.

R: I was unworthy and you believed in me.

L: I was victimized and you empowered me.

R: I was confused and you brought me insight.

L: I was silent and you listened to me.

R: I was seeking and you searched with me.

L: I was knocking and you opened the door.

A communion meal may be served at this time.

Suggested Closing Song and Prayer

The Body of Christ, By Ellen Oak/Deborah Dill

Refrain

She's the bo - dy of Christ, she's the glo - ry of
 God, and I am she. I am she

1. There is wis - dom in the wa - ters of her womb, she
 broods, bears down, she brings to be— **Refrain**

2. She re - joic - es in her beau - ty and her strength; she's full —
 grown and she lets the world — see. **Refrain**

3. She gives her - self in love for the world: she takes,
 bles - ses, breaks, and eats. **Refrain**

4. She's spi - ri - filled, she speaks the truth with power; she
 gleams with the oil of ma - jes - ty. **Refrain**

She is moved by ev - ery de - tail; she de
 lights to let the dif - feren - ces be. **Refrain**

She's not a - shamed of her weak - ness and her pain, she washes
 clean, heals the wounds, and sets free. **Refrain**

She's not a - fraid of death, she knows it well. She lives
 deep in the heart of mys - ter - y. **Refrain**

©1990, Ellen Oak
 Used With Permission
 All Rights Reserved
 Music and tapes available by writing:
 5141 Main Street
 Kansas City MO 64112

Resources

These resources (materials, organizations, written resources, videos, emergency numbers, etc.) are available for you to use. It is important for you to find out the local resources available in your community now, so that if an emergency situation should occur, you will have the right telephone numbers at hand. Many of the groups listed here are national, but they will usually be able to provide you with a local referral.

Advocates for Battered Women

P.O. Box 1954
Little Rock AR 72203
(800) 332-4443 HOTLINE
(501) 376-3219

American Association of Pastoral Counselors

9504A Lee Highway
Fairfax VA 22031
(703) 385-6967

Center for Adult Survivors of Sexual Abuse

205 Avenue I, Ste.27
Redondo Beach CA 90277
(310) 379-5929

The Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence

The Rev. Marie M. Fortune, Executive Director
1914 N. 34th Street, #105
Seattle WA 98103
Emergency (800) 562-6025
(206) 634-1903

Child Abuse Prevention Handbook

A manual for Episcopal Churches, Schools and Institutions
The Task Force on Child Abuse of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles
P.O. Box 2164, 1220 W. 4th Street
Los Angeles CA 90051

The manual addresses these and other issues of concern: the responsibility of clergy and all members of the church; mandated reporting requirements; employer requirements; disciplines and policies.

Child Abuse Prevention Handbook (1988)

Crime Prevention Center
Office of the Attorney General
P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento CA 94244-2550

"Child Abuse, You and the Church: Offering Hope to Children" (flyer)

The Child and Family Advocacy Commission of the Diocese of Southern Virginia
Jean Rutherford, Director of Program and Educational Ministries
600 Talbot Hall Road
Norfolk VA 23505
(804) 423-8287

Committee on the Status of Women

Women in Mission and Ministry Office
The Episcopal Church Center
815 Second Avenue
New York NY 10017
(800) 334-7626

The Healing Woman: The Monthly Newsletter for Women Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse

P.O. Box 3038
Moss Beach CA 94038
(415) 728-0339
FAX (415) 728-1324

Helping Children by Strengthening Families:

A Look at Family Support Programs

\$6.50 100 pages (1992)
Children's Defense Fund
25 E Street, NW
Washington DC 20001
(202) 662-3652

Incest Resources, Inc.

Women's Center
46 Pleasant Street
Cambridge MA 02139
(617) 492-1818

"National Listing of Incest Survivor Groups" (\$3.00) an extensive list of survivor-founded organizations. Also, educational, resource, and recovery materials are available nationally/internationally by mail order.

***Keeping the Faith* (1987)**

by The Rev. Marie M. Fortune

New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1987.

The Rev. Ms. Fortune provides answers to questions from abused and battered women. Her responses are derived from Christian theology as she quotes from pertinent passages of scripture which address our issues.

Men Stopping Violence

1020 Dekalb Avenue, #25

Atlanta GA 30307

(404) 688-1376

Provides resources and an excellent program by men for men who are abusers and batterers.

Model Mugging

Courses designed to teach participants to defend themselves against attacks by an assailant. Classes are co-taught by a female lead instructor and a male instructor who wears \$1500 worth of protective "armor." Students are taught how to deliver full-force strikes and kicks in vital areas, such as eyes, knees, and groin, and to discourage, disable, or knock out an aggressor.

Call the numbers below for referrals to a program in your area.

In U.S. (except California): (800) 77-FIGHT

In California: (800) 345-KICK

National Clearing House for the Defense of Battered Women

125 S. 9th Street, Ste. 302

Philadelphia PA 19107

(215) 351-0010

This is the only national organization specifically devoted to protecting the rights of battered women who have defended themselves against their abusers. They distribute resources and a national directory of programs for incarcerated battered women.

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

P.O. Box 34103

Washington DC 20043-4103

(202) 638-6388

(303) 839-1852 Denver CO Business Office

They have a *National Directory of Domestic Violence Programs* available, as well as other resources available in Spanish and English.

National Coalition Against Sexual Assault

P.O. Box 21378

Washington DC 20009

(202) 483-7165

National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA)

1751 Park Road, NW

Washington DC 20010

(202) 232-NOVA

24-hour-a-day service for information about local and national victim assistance programs

National Women Abuse Prevention Project

2000 P Street, NW, Ste. 508

Washington DC 20036

National HOTLINE: (800) 333-SAFE

***"Not in My Church"* (1991)**

Produced by Marie Fortune and the Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence

1914 N. 34th Street, Ste. 105

Seattle WA 98103

(206) 634-1903

To rent video contact EcuFilm at (800) 251-4091

"Responding to Incest" In Memory of Nancy

by Elaine Westerlund

Women in Crisis Committee

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

138 Tremont Street

Boston MA 02111

The Right to Innocence: Healing the Trauma of Childhood Sexual Abuse

by Beverly Engel, M.F.C.C.

New York: Ivy Books, 1989

Her exercises, visualizations, and techniques will support you through a seven-step program for recovery which includes: facing the truth; releasing your anger; confronting those responsible with facts and feelings; resolving your relationships; rediscovering yourself; learning self-care; forgiving yourself.

The Safer Society Program

P.O. Box 340

Brandon VT 05733

(802) 247-3132

A national project of the NY State Council of Churches which maintains a national list of agencies, institutions, and individuals providing specialized assessment and treatment for young and adult violent offenders and sexual abuse victims and offenders.

Surely Heed Their Cry:

A Presbyterian Guide to Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Healing

Presbyterian Distribution Management Service

(800) 524-2612

Women in Crisis: Stories of Ministries and Empowerment

by Anne Marie Hunter and Peggy Halsey

Stories and addresses of projects that work!

Order from:

Service Center

United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries

7820 Reading Road, Caller No. 1800

Cincinnati OH 45222-1800

Appendix

Executive Council and General Convention Resolutions

Mundelein, IL 1993

The Sexual Harassment and Sexual Abuse Policy for Participants in Activities under the Auspices of the General Convention and Executive Council of the General Convention

Resolved, That the Executive Council of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church deplores sexual harassment and sexual abuse of any kind in our society, but particularly as such conduct may involve participants at meetings, events, and other activities sanctioned by the General Convention or Executive Council, or any of their associated or affiliated commissions, committees, boards, agencies, task forces, or similar bodies.

In order to implement this policy, the Executive Council of the General Convention adopts the following definitions and procedures:

(a) "Sexual harassment" includes any unwelcome sexual advance or conduct (written, spoken, or physical), any direct or indirect request for a sexual favor or suggestion that one might be granted, and any tormenting behavior based on sex.

(b) "Sexual abuse" includes any unwelcome physical or verbal sexual contact with another person in a context that would be regarded as unlawful or improper by local governmental authorities.

For purposes of this policy the following procedure will apply with regard to Complaints:

Any complaint of sexual harassment or abuse allegedly committed at an activity of an organization sanctioned by the General Convention or Executive Council shall be made, in writing, either to the person in charge of the activity or to an officer of the Executive Council, i.e., Presiding Bishop as Chair, President of the House of Deputies as Vice Chair, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer, or to some other person specifically designated by the Presiding Bishop to assist him in handling such matters. The complaint shall include a detailed account of the incident, the names and positions with the Church of the complainant and the person against whom the complaint is made, the

name of any witness to the incident, and documents that may be a part of or be relevant to the incident.

For the purpose of this policy the following procedures will apply with regard to Investigation and Report:

(a) The complaint shall be forwarded as soon as practicable to the Presiding Bishop or to his designee. Within five days of receipt of the complaint, the Presiding Bishop or his designee shall commence an investigation into the facts alleged in the complaint, by interviewing the complainant and the respondent and any witnesses to the incident and by reviewing any relevant documents. This investigation shall be carried out in a manner that is sensitive to the feelings and dignity of both the complainant and the person against whom the complaint is made.

(b) A written report of the investigation shall promptly be prepared and sent to both the complainant and respondent. The report, which shall in any event be reviewed and endorsed by the Presiding Bishop, shall consider and reach a conclusion as to whether or not the allegations in the complaint have been shown to be well-founded and whether or not further investigation is warranted.

(c) If the foregoing report concludes that an allegation of sexual abuse has been shown well-founded, the Presiding Bishop or his designee shall forthwith furnish a copy of the report to the appropriate governmental authorities and shall ensure such authorities of his cooperation in any ensuing investigation of the incident.

For the purposes of this policy the following procedures will apply with regard to Sanctions:

(a) If the foregoing report concludes that the allegations of the complaint have been shown to be well-founded, the Presiding Bishop shall take one or more of the following steps: (i) admonish the perpetrator; (ii) ask the perpetrator to resign (immediately or at some other specific time) from the position with the church body that authorized his or her presence at the activity at which the incident took place; (iii) ask the perpetrator to resign from one or more other Church-related positions; (iv) recommend that the perpetrator undergo professional evaluation or treatment; (v) recommend to the Church body which elected or appointed the perpetrator that the perpetrator be removed from, or not reappointed to the position; (vi) in the case of a member of the clergy, refer the report to the appropriate Ecclesiastical Authority having disciplinary jurisdiction; or (vii) take such other action as the Presiding Bishop may deem appropriate.

H-15
(b) If, during the investigation of the incident complained of, the Presiding Bishop or his designee has reason to believe that the continued participation by the perpetrator in his or her Church position, whether or not involving the activity at which the incident took place, would be unduly threatening or disruptive, the Presiding Bishop shall, pending completion of the investigation, take one of the steps set out in paragraph (a) above.

For the purposes of this policy the following procedures will apply with regard to Confidentiality:

The Presiding Bishop and his designee shall retain copies of all information and reports relating to any complaint and the incident alleged. He shall treat all such material in a sensitive manner, keeping confidential to the extent appropriate and feasible to all those named, the allegations of the complaint and relevant responses, and the results of the investigation.

This resolution in its entirety supersedes Program 8 (a) adopted by the Executive Council in New York City on October 31–November 4, 1991.

Phoenix, AZ 1991

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church recommend that all dioceses, congregations, and church schools provide age-appropriate educational programs for children and youth for protection against sexual abuse; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council be charged with identifying existing resources, informing diocese of these resources and reporting back to the 71st General Convention on the progress and participation in this program.

Phoenix, AZ 1991

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 70th General Convention call upon the Church at every level to renew a commitment to address violence in every sector of society, especially that of domestic violence aimed toward spouses, children and older adults; violence and hate directed toward persons of differing ethnic, religious or political persuasions; violence stemming from homophobia and other irrational fears; be it further

Resolved, That parishes and dioceses be urged to develop educational programs and resources through preaching, through liturgy, through pastoral care for both the victims and the perpetrators of all kinds of violence, and through advocacy with the public sector for programs of education, social service, and public policy that will address the problems of violence.

Detroit, MI 1988

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That this 69th General Convention urge every Bishop to direct an appropriate body within the diocese to:

1. establish and conduct training workshops for clergy and laity to identify the signs of battering and sexual abuse of women and children;
2. produce a register for the clergy and laity of available resources within their communities, such as support services, shelters and entitlement programs; and
3. encourage clergy and laity to consult with and refer victims to professionally trained counselors and support groups; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention urge the seminaries of the Church to include in their curricula appropriate education and training in the area of family violence.

Anaheim, CA 1985

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That where legally and pastorally appropriate each Bishop be requested to direct an appropriate body within his[her] diocese to establish and conduct training workshops for clergy to enable better recognition of the indications of child abuse and child sexual abuse, and for the purpose of orienting the clergy to their own community's resources for dealing with this sensitive issue; and be it further

Resolved, That said workshops be repeated periodically in each diocese in order that new clergy be included.

Current National Government Legislation

The Violence Against Women Acts

The Violence Against Women Acts (S.11 in the Senate and HR.1133 in the House of Representatives) address many concerns about gender-motivated violence. The Acts have 5 titles, each dealing with a different area of concern.

Title I, "Safe Streets for Women," establishes a "National Commission on Violent Crimes Against Women" and creates safer public transit and public parks providing increased lighting and camera surveillance in public places. The House bill is expected to create treatment for all persons convicted of a federal sexual offense. Mandatory treatment will enhance the rate of conviction while decreasing the rate of recidivism in an area where defendants are likely to plea bargain to avoid the stigma and current sentencing ranges for rape.

Title II, "Safe Homes for Women," offers a shield from domestic violence by protecting the privacy of the fleeing victim, creates federal penalties for spouse abusers who cross state lines to continue their abuse, and requires all states to enforce any "state away" order, regardless of the jurisdiction of its origin. Title II also seeks to prevent domestic violence by creating school-based programs designed to educate children and stop the cycle of family violence, and it requires states to establish commissions to study domestic violence, and authorizes a national media campaign against such violence.

In 1993, Senator Kennedy added a provision to amend the Family Violence Prevention and Service Act to include grants for a national domestic violence toll-free hotline.

Title III, creates a civil remedy for the victims of gender-motivated crimes as "bias" crimes that deprive victims of their civil rights. The victim of a "gender-motivated" felony can bring a civil rights suit against the assailant.

Title IV, "Safe Campuses for Women," was incorporated with the Higher Education Amendments of 1992. Provides funds to create campus rape education and prevention programs and services. It also requires campuses to report all forms of sexual assault and not just "rape."

Title V, "Equal Justice for Women in the Courts Act," calls for the education of state and federal judges on the subjects of domestic violence, sexual assault and gender bias.

Suggested Political Action:

Contact your Representative and Senators and ask them to cosponsor and support the Violence Against Women legislation.

The Honorable (name of Representative)

House of Representatives

Washington DC 20515

The Honorable (name of Senator)

United States Senate

Washington DC 20510

Capitol Switch Board: (202) 224-3121

There is also current State and Federal Legislation on Stalking. Inquire with your local legislature or at the Senate Document Room, Room SHB-04, Hart Office Building, Washington DC 20510-7106.

Current Church Action

The Church Insurance Company Policy

The following excerpt is taken from The Church Insurance Company's booklet on Comprehensive Sexual Misconduct Liability Protection for church employees which went into effect on July 1, 1993:

After managing dozens of sexual misconduct cases, we have discerned patterns that transcend the unique characteristics of each situation. As we work with each claim, we ask, in effect, "How could this damage have been prevented?" From the cases we have confronted, we have identified five major challenges:

Prevention through increased attention to training, wellness, clergy peer group support, deterrence, supervision of youth leaders, and early response by vestries and diocesan officials to high-risk behavior by spiritual leaders;

Early, Pre-Claim Management of complaints so that aggrieved individuals are not further alienated from the church. Complaints often pursue litigation not for the original misconduct, but for the mishandling of their disclosure by church officials. Credible complaints must receive thorough, competent, and efficient investigation by parish and diocesan officials. Procedural fairness for all parties must be observed rigorously;

Adult Counseling Situations that get out of control and result in sexualized behavior. Clergy increasingly recognize the need—in terms of time, talent, and role—to refer sensitive cases to mental health professionals. Unfortunately, others wander into complicated cases, or more tragically, take advantage of vulnerable parishioners;

Extra-Familial Child Sexual Abuse occurs all too often on holy ground. New scientific studies suggest that perhaps 5% of all adults have high sexual arousal to children. Some of those individuals seek access to children amid the trusting environment of the church. Parishes and other church-related institutions must do their part to better screen and supervise anyone—lay or ordained, volunteer or employee—who works with children and youth;

Re-Deployment Accountability places a heavy burden on church officials to ensure that an offending spiritual leader will not repeat

inappropriate behavior. Unfortunately, no scientifically respectable outcome studies can prove that someone will not re-offend because he or she has received counseling or special supervision. Some studies caution against returning offenders to known contexts of temptation. If church officials know about previous misconduct charges and the spiritual leader subsequently re-offends, parishes and diocese will face heightened exposure to negligent selection, retention and supervision charges, along with possible suspension of coverage.

These overall concerns guided us in the development of specific insurance conditions and risk management strategies. Each of the following conditions focuses on behavior within the scope of ministry, intentionally avoiding such issues as sexual orientation or off-the-job sexual expression. The conditions constitute minimum requirements. An insured entity may add more comprehensive safeguards. CIC will offer extensive informal and educational support to implement these initiatives. Working together, we can protect the safety and integrity of our varied ministries.

(Educational Models of the Policy are being developed.)

Dad—I Remember and I Will Survive

By Jennifer S.

I remember

the threats of death and abandonment
the knife at my throat
the ropes that tied my little body down

I remember

being hung in the basement and attic
being tortured for your sexual pleasure
being beaten and shocked unconsciously

I remember

your friends raping me
the pictures and movies taken of me
living much of my childhood out of body

I will survive

If there's one thing
you have taught me
it is to survive

I will survive

for my husband
for my daughter
for my sanity

I will survive

because I deserve to
I will overcome despite you—
DAD

4-18

MYTHS ABOUT LESBIAN BATTERING

- * DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DOESN'T OCCUR IN LESBIAN RELATIONSHIPS. WOMEN DON'T BATTER OTHER WOMEN.

Lesbians do batter other lesbians. The incidence of such violence is not presently known, but we do know that increasing numbers of lesbians are calling battered women's services seeking help. This myth comes from a belief that women do not learn to use power and control over other women in the way that men do. Many women have turned to lesbianism as a means of achieving safer, more egalitarian relationships. Many lesbians are protective of the image of lesbians which is portrayed to society in general due to the already overwhelming oppression of lesbians.

- * BATTERED LESBIANS ARE AS LIKELY TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AS VICTIMS AS ARE HETEROSEXUAL WOMEN.

Denial by lesbian victims may be even greater than denial by heterosexual victims. This may occur for a number of reasons: A) the myth that women do not learn violence; B) the fact that the lesbian community has yet to recognize and name the abusive behavior for what it is: BATTERING; C) the myth of mutual battering, which makes the lesbian victim believe she is equally responsible because she took self-defensive action; and D) the lack of available resources and support for the lesbian victim.

- * LESBIAN VIOLENCE IS PRIMARILY FOUND IN RELATIONSHIPS WHERE LESBIANS ARE IN "ROLES."

Many lesbians have been involved in the feminist movement which seeks to free all people from sex-role stereotyping. Frequently, lesbian relationships do not have "roles." Violence in lesbian relationships occurs in feminist and in role-typed relationships alike, just as in heterosexual relationships.

- * SINCE WOMEN ARE LIKELY TO BE MORE EQUAL IN SIZE, THE DAMAGE INFLICTED BY THE LESBIAN BATTERER IS TYPICALLY LESS THAN THAT INFLICTED BY A MALE BATTERER.

In heterosexual relationships, the size of the batterer relative to the victim doesn't determine the amount of damage sustained by the violence. Similarly, size is not the determinant of physical damage in lesbian relationships. Intense anger or rage can enable a smaller person to overwhelm a larger person.

- * LESBIANS ARE MORE LIKELY TO EQUALLY PARTICIPATE IN THE VIOLENCE THAN ARE HETEROSEXUALS.

Although it may be true that lesbian victims are more likely to attempt to defend themselves against their abusers, this does not mean that there is mutual battering occurring. Actions taken in self-defense, although violent, cannot be identified as abusive.

- * THE BATTERED LESBIAN IS LIKELY TO BE LESS ECONOMICALLY DEPENDENT UPON THE ABUSER THAN IS THE HETEROSEXUAL VICTIM. OR, THE LESBIAN VICTIM IS MORE LIKELY TO BE FINANCIALLY DEPENDENT UPON HER BATTERER.

It is more likely in a heterosexual household that the male will have more earning power, so his economic contributions may be greater. As in heterosexual relationships, the battered lesbian may be supported by her batterer. She may also be supporting her batterer, which is also sometimes true of heterosexual relationships as well. Many lesbians, in fact, are economically self-sufficient.

APPENDIX A

- * IT IS NO MORE DIFFICULT FOR A BATTERED LESBIAN TO SEEK HELP THAN IT IS FOR A HETEROSEXUAL VICTIM.

For the same reasons it is hard for heterosexual women to ask for help, it is equally difficult for the lesbian victim. The battered lesbian faces additional difficulties. There is no well-accepted awareness of the existence of lesbian battering. The lesbian victim may fear that battered women's services won't help her because of her sexual preference. The risks of telling one's family may be much greater for the battered lesbian, for they may not even know that she is a lesbian. Even if they do, some of the responses of her family may be to suggest that the violence was a result of her sexuality or that if she changed and became straight, the violence would disappear. She may also not be able to find any support from the lesbian community. Finally, the risk to the victim and to the abuser that exposure of their sexual preference may bring may be much greater than the relief of help.

- * CHILDREN ARE NOT AN ISSUE FOR BATTERED LESBIANS.

Many lesbians are mothers. Questions of child custody may arise for a battered lesbian if she admits that she is a lesbian, and that she is in a violent relationship.

- * BATTERED LESBIANS HAVE NEEDS THAT ARE DIFFERENT FROM OTHER BATTERED WOMEN.

Battered lesbians need the same services as other battered women. Many of the problems a battered lesbian faces are similar to those faced by any battered woman, and so are the solutions. However, the lesbian dealing with an abusive relationship cannot escape also dealing with the violence of gay oppression that is experienced both in society in general, and in battered women's service agencies. The situation of the battered lesbian does differ from that of other battered women, but the differences are fewer than the similarities.

- * THE REASONS THAT WOMEN ARE VIOLENT ARE DIFFERENT THAN THE REASONS MEN ARE VIOLENT.

Lesbians seem to batter for the same reasons that men batter: to feel powerful. The only reason for violent behavior is one person's attempt to assert control and dominance over another person. Such behavior is often learned in childhood and is certainly reinforced by the violence prevalent in our culture, especially in the media.

- * THE ACTS OF VIOLENCE PERPETRATED BY MEN ARE MORE VIOLENT THAN THE ACTS OF VIOLENCE COMMITTED BY WOMEN.

It may be true that women use guns less often when acting in violence against other women, but this may be due to the fact that fewer women own or have access to guns. Battered lesbians who seek services report violence and threats of violence just as severe and life threatening as do other battered women. One should never discount or minimize a woman's fear of the violence in her relationship just because she is a lesbian and her partner is another woman.

- * LESBIAN ABUSERS ARE MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO REHABILITATION FOR THE CESSATION OF VIOLENCE THAN ARE MALE ABUSERS.

We may like to think that women are more open to growth and change than men, but we really don't have any evidence to support this idea in terms of lesbians who batter. What we do know is that the cycles of violence fit lesbian relationships just as well as they do heterosexual relationships. We would do a disservice to a battered lesbian by suggesting there may be more hope for change than in heterosexual relationships.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

* EDUCATION

Educate yourself about the extent, frequency, severity, and dynamics of lesbian battering. Speak out about lesbian battering. Help educate the lesbian community to assist in decreasing the minimization and the denial of the problem. Let's stop blaming the battered partner and start making the batterer accountable.

* RESOURCES

Learn about the resources available for battered lesbians, and about the ones we still need. Support the existing programs for battered lesbians in your community and help develop the ones that we don't have yet.

* SUPPORT, PROTECT, AND EMPOWER THE BATTERED LESBIAN

Believe the survivor. Support her and protect her at community gatherings. Don't minimize her fears or what happened to her by encouraging her to "make peace" with the batterer.

Be empathetic and don't judge her. Questions such as "Why don't you just leave her?" are inappropriate as they imply an element of blame and judgement.

Don't tell her what she needs to do, this takes responsibility for herself away from her. Instead, help her discover for herself what she needs to do. Encourage her to examine her own situation and take responsibility for changing it herself. Tell her where she can get help, but let the decision to get that help be her own.

Be there for her and listen to her. Social isolation is often the greatest pain a battered lesbian experiences. If she is fearful, confused, and seems to be at a loss to understand what is happening to her, name it for her: it is BATTERING.

WHAT IS LESBIAN BATTERING?

Lesbian battering is a pattern of violent and coercive behavior a lesbian uses to control the thoughts or behavior of her intimate partner or to punish her intimate partner for resisting the batterer's control over her.

Individual acts of physical violence, in themselves, are not lesbian battering. Physical violence is not battering unless it serves to increase the control of the batterer over her partner. If the assaulted partner becomes fearful of the perpetrator, if she modifies her behavior or frame of mind in response to the assault or to avoid future abuse, despite her preference not to do so, she is battered (Hart, 1986).

VIOLENT AND COERCIVE BEHAVIORS USED BY LESBIAN BATTERERS

Lesbian batterers employ just about any and all types of abuse found in any other type of battering: physical assault; sexual assault; property damage; threats; economic control; and psychological or emotional abuse. In addition to these types of violent or coercive behaviors, the lesbian batterer also uses homophobic control.

The lesbian batterer uses homophobic control by threatening to tell family, friends, employers or others that her partner is a lesbian if she does not comply with the batterers wishes; by telling her partner that she deserves all that she gets because she is a lesbian; by assuring her partner that no one would believe she has been assaulted because lesbians are not violent; and by reminding her that she has no options because the homophobic world will not help her (Hart, 1986).

WHY DO LESBIANS BATTER?

Like male batterers, lesbians who batter seek to achieve and to maintain power over their partners in order to obtain fulfillment of their own needs and desires. Lesbians batter their lovers because violence is often an effective method to gain power and control over intimates (Renzetti, 1988).

Lesbians, like everyone else in our society, have been socialized in a culture where many forms of violence are tolerated. In our culture, violence is often not seen as a crime, and there are few severe consequences for violence, such as incarceration, economic penalties, embarrassment or community ostracism. Since violence is a tolerated tactic of control, battering of intimate partners is widely practiced (Hart, 1986).

THE MYTH OF MUTUAL BATTERING

The idea that physical violence between lesbians is usually fighting in which both partners engage is untrue and very dangerous to battered lesbians.

A significant number of battered lesbians when first seeking assistance from friends, therapists or battered women's shelters question whether they were really battered if they have acted violently even once toward the batterer. A lesbian who has been battered often believes as some therapists and advocates do, that her experiences of violence at the hands of her partner were "mutual" since she may have reacted with violence. But the violence is largely self-defensive or the release of suppressed rage over past abuses.

For many, the batterer has instigated and reinforced this blaming of the victim. Invariably batterers blame battered lesbians for the violence they inflict, alleging that if only the battered lesbian had not provoked her, the batterer would not have been violent. The batterer would have others believe that she is really under the control of the victim, helpless in the face of her behavior, and compelled to violence (Hart, 1986).

When attempting to understand battering in lesbian relationships, the lessons learned about battering in non-lesbian relationships should not be forgotten. We know that some non-lesbian women who are battered by men are violent. The fact of their violence does not compel us to reach a conclusion that they are not battered. We have supported and defended a woman's right to act violently to protect herself, particularly when violence directed at her is life threatening. When men have said that the victims of their violence have been violent, we have not concluded then that battering was mutual or that the woman had not been battered (Walker, 1986).

Why is it easier to believe that somehow a battered lesbian is part of the problem than to believe that a heterosexual woman is part of the problem?

INTERNALIZED HOMOPHOBIA: HOW IT AFFECTS LESBIANS' RESPONSES TO VIOLENT RELATIONSHIPS

Lesbians are typically shut out of heterosexual community services and may also be alienated from their families, so the response of their own community is crucial. Yet there are compelling reasons for the lesbian community to overlook or deny battering among its members.

First, there is the possibility that recognition of the problem will only fuel societal homophobia, especially during this period of increasing anti-gay and lesbian sentiment.

Secondly, the abuse of women by women contradicts the widely held belief that physical violence is a "male" or "patriarchal" problem.

And thirdly, discussing the issue also threatens the utopian ideals of the lesbian community and the vision of egalitarianism in lesbian relationships.

The reluctance on the part of the lesbian community to take a strong and open stand against violence in lesbian relationships serves to protect the batterers by allowing the battering to continue. The lack of support from the lesbian community increases the isolation, confusion, and pain experienced by the battered lesbian (Renzetti, 1988).

WHERE BATTERED LESBIANS GO FOR HELP AND WHAT THEY NEED FROM BATTERED WOMEN'S SHELTERS

Not enough research has been conducted on battering in lesbian relationships, but the few studies that have been completed reveal similar conclusions about where battered lesbians go for assistance.

Most battered lesbians (60-70%) tended to turn to their friends for help; however, only about half of these battered lesbians found their friends helpful. The second most frequent source of help for battered lesbians were therapists or counselors. About two-thirds of those who turned to therapists found them helpful. (Asherah, 1989; Renzetti, 1988)

The few battered lesbians who were lucky enough to find a non-homophobic support group rated support groups as most helpful because it helped reduce their sense of isolation. It was a safe and accepting environment where they felt validated and understood. (Asherah, 1989)

Battered lesbians need the same services other battered women need: telephone hotlines; support groups; education about battering; shelter; and therapy or counseling. The major difference between the needs of non-lesbian battered women and battered lesbians is that lesbians at a time of crisis need services that will be supportive, validating and accepting of them, i.e., non-homophobic. They, like women of color, deserve services that will not further traumatize them at a time when they are especially vulnerable to the injuries caused by racism and homophobia.

It is very
empowering for
victims of abuse
to hear their
spiritual leaders
say that God
does not
condone
violence in a
relationship.

APPENDIX B

BOX 1267 MONTREAT, NC 28757

MONTREAT
COLLEGE

Peace in the Home

A Response of
Faith Communities
to Family Violence

Sponsored by



THE RUTH AND
BILLY GRAHAM
CHILDREN'S
HEALTH CENTER

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #5
Montreat, N.C.
28757

Q Why is family violence an issue for faith communities?

A Communities of faith value the family as a place where the love and mercy of God can be lived out. But in the United States, a case of physical assault by a spouse is reported to police every 60 seconds, according to FBI statistics. Almost 8,500 children are reported abused or neglected each day in the United States, according to the Children's Defense Fund. Viewing such statistics, how can we believe that members of faith communities are not included in these numbers?

Family violence is experienced by people of all economic, educational, racial and religious backgrounds. But much of the violence in families is shadowed by silence and secrecy.

Most faith communities place considerable importance on the role of the family. Therefore, faithfulness to God requires that family violence be addressed by communities of faith. Many people who experience family violence or are themselves perpetrators of violence belong to communities of faith. Others may seek help because the violence brings up faith issues for them. To address family violence, people of faith must first develop an awareness and understanding of its characteristics and dynamics and prepare appropriate responses.

Continuing the silence and secrecy that surrounds this problem for many people will not make it any less real or make it go away.

*"It is not enemies who taunt me –
I could bear that;
But it is you, my equal,
my companion, my familiar friend –"*
(Psalm 55)

Q What is the *Peace in the Home* program?

A The *Peace in the Home* program is designed to address the violence that occurs in families by providing opportunities for faith communities to learn more about family violence and how they can respond. We believe that no doctrine or scripture in the Jewish or Christian faiths can be rightly interpreted to mean that violence is acceptable to God at any time in a family, although we do recognize that some doctrines and scripture passages have been misinterpreted and misunderstood in ways that have been used to keep victims from leaving abusive situations and perpetrators from getting treatment.

Peace in the Home is jointly sponsored by the Ruth and Billy Graham Children's Health Center and Montreat College. The program was developed by a task force consisting of ten pastors, rabbis and priests from major Protestant, Jewish and Catholic religious faith communities in Buncombe County and Western North Carolina, in addition to representatives from health care, education and service provider organizations.

Q Who should attend?

A This interfaith workshop is targeted specifically to three-person teams from faith communities. It has been created for clergy members, pastoral counselors, religious educators, lay leaders and others in the faith community who will develop supportive strategies in their congregation to assist people affected by family violence. Because each section of the workshop builds on concepts presented in previous sections, it is recommended that you choose a workshop date when you can attend the entire session. The *Peace in the Home* program offers workshops on family violence throughout the year.

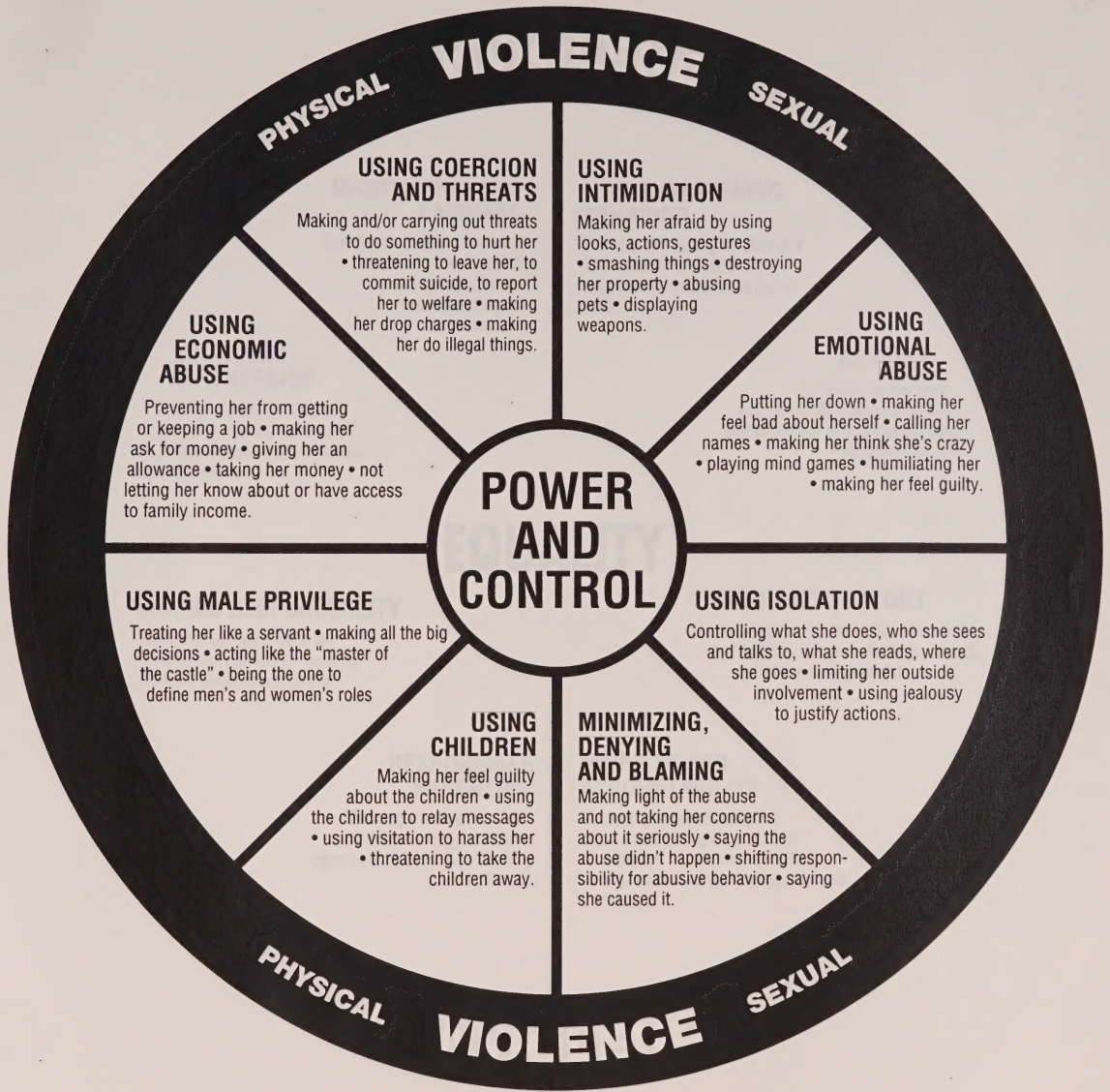
Workshop leaders are representatives of Christian and Jewish faith communities who have expertise in areas of family violence and include clergy and

Q What will I learn during the *Peace in the Home* program?

- A**
- Learn basic knowledge of domestic violence and child abuse, including the prevalence of abuse and how spousal abuse and child abuse are related.
 - Explore theological issues related to family violence, including the marriage covenant, repentance, forgiveness, suffering and the image of God.
 - How to recognize signs of family violence and how to talk to victims and survivors of family violence. Safety issues, confidentiality and mandatory reporting will be addressed.
 - How to respond if the perpetrator is a member of the congregation. Accountability and the importance of treatment will be stressed.
 - How to make referrals to community service agencies. How congregations can be supportive of these agencies will also be discussed.
 - How to develop strategies for your faith community to address family violence.

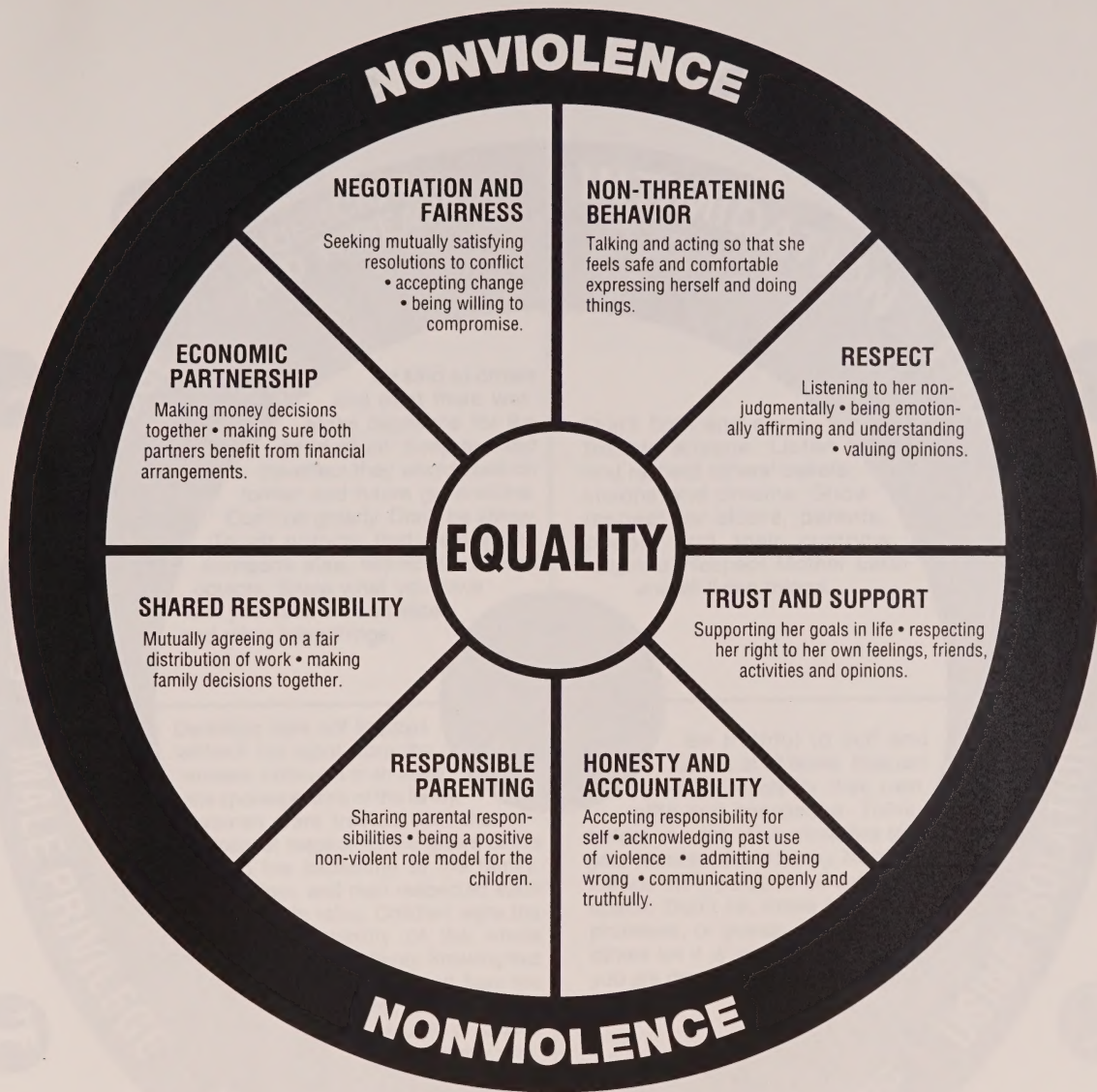
For more information on *Peace in the Home*, please contact:

Rev. Allison Best-Teague, Coordinator
Montreat College
School of Professional and Adult Studies
Ridgefield Business Centre
318 Ridgefield Court
Asheville, N.C. 28806
Telephone: 704-667-5044, ext. 315 Fax 704-667-9079

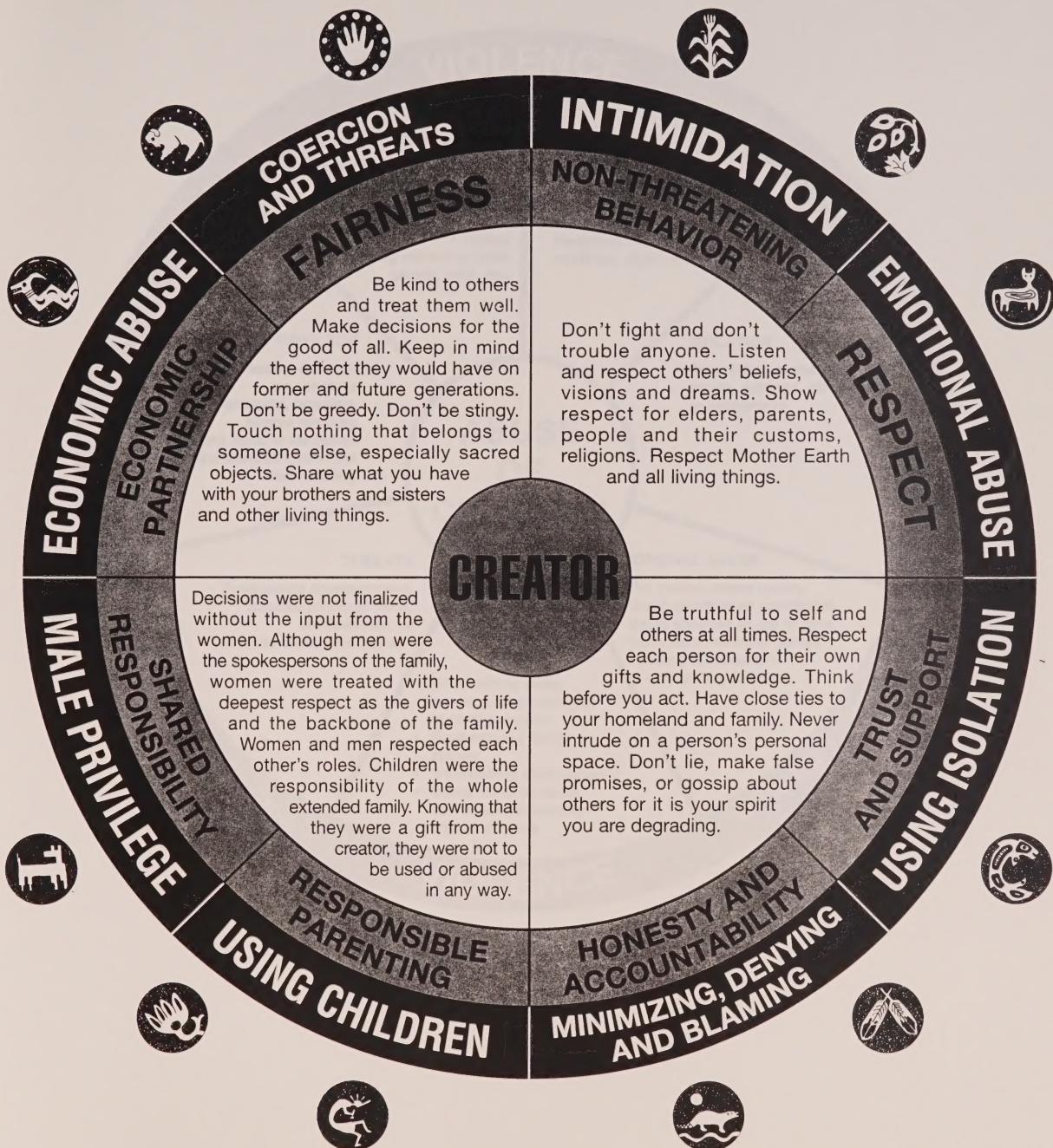


DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION PROJECT

206 West Fourth Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55806
218-722-4134



DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION PROJECT
206 West Fourth Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55806
218-722-4134

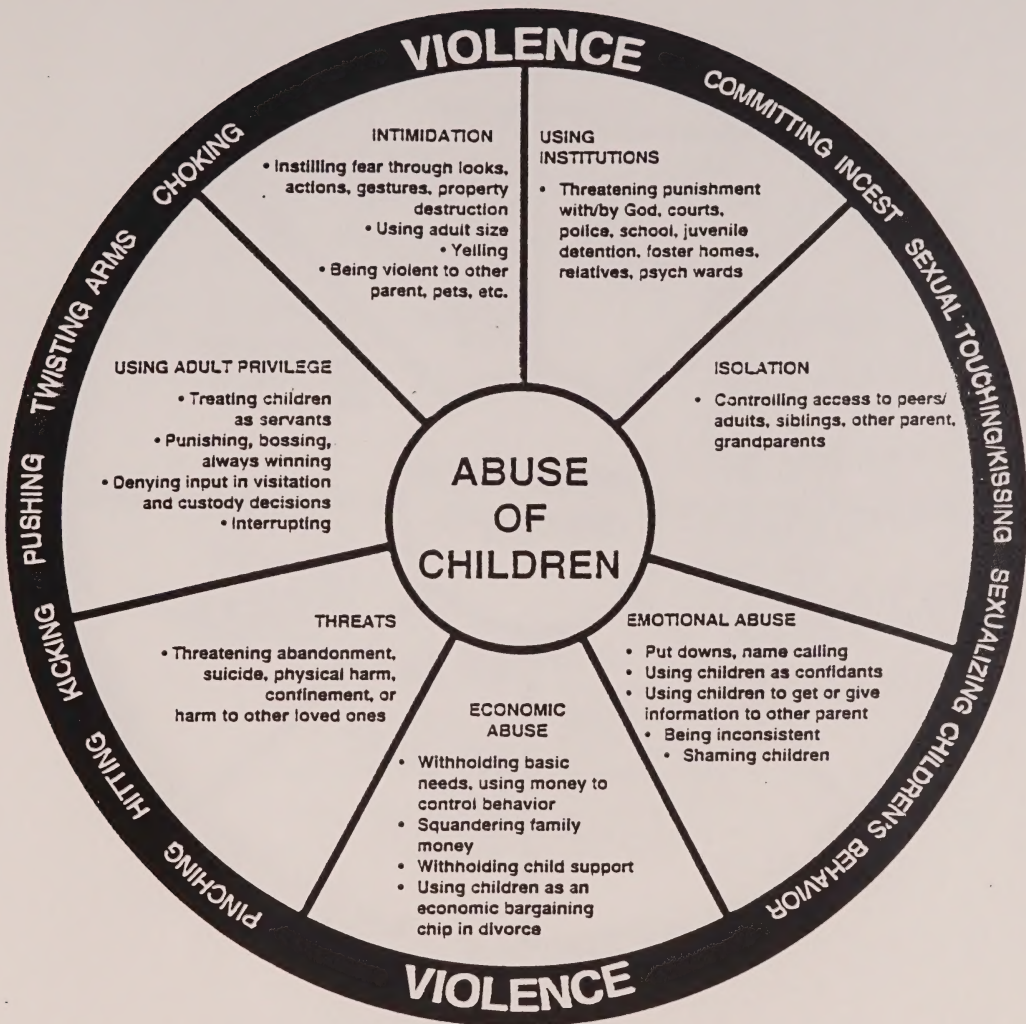


MENDING THE SACRED HOOP

206 West Fourth Street
 Duluth, Minnesota 55806

218-722-2781

APPENDIX E



Domestic Abuse Intervention Project
 206 West Fourth Street
 Duluth, MN 55806
 (218) 722-2781

APPENDIX



Domestic Abuse Intervention Project
 206 West Fourth Street
 Duluth, MN 55806
 (218) 722-2781

The Violence at Home

Activists Demand Help for Battered Gays and Lesbians –
And for Their Abusers

BY KATRIN SNOW

Six months after the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project launched a subway poster campaign against gay and lesbian domestic violence, the flood of calls to the group's crisis hot line has barely subsided. Activists around the country report a similar pattern: When something breaks the silence that has long curtailed violence in same-gender relationships, the stories pour forth.

"What we heard from a lot of survivors," says Naomi Lichtenstein, the New York group's director of client services who has worked in domestic-violence and crime-victim service organizations since the late '70s, "is they looked at this poster and said, 'Oh, my God, that's me. This is my relationship.'" The project's staff logged 91 calls during the first month of the campaign, compared with the previous average of 15 to 20 domestic-violence calls a month. The number of calls, which are about evenly divided between men and women, stayed high through early 1992 and dropped to 24 in March.

While few data are available on the incidence of gay and lesbian domestic violence, a 1990 study by Vallerie Coleman, a psychotherapist in Santa Monica, Calif., found that of 90 lesbian couples, 46.6% had experienced repeated acts of violence. In a study of 50 gay men carried out in 1987 by psychologist Carl Kelly and counselor Lynn Warshafsky through the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center in Los Angeles, 62% reported some amount of violence in their relationship.

Naming the Violence, a 1986 book about violence in lesbian relationships, and *Men Who Beat the Men Who Love Them*, a 1991 book about gay male domestic violence, list



Domestic-violence worker Greg Merrill
"Friends think of it as two men fighting."

ways in which lesbians and gay men batter their partners. The lists include assaults with guns, knives, broken bottles, or cigarettes; beating and choking; rape; destroying property; harming pets; controlling the partner's income and assets; humiliation; ridicule for sexual inadequacy; and threatening to tell family, friends, employer, police, or church that the partner is gay.

Based on her study and clinical experience, Coleman says that of lesbian relationships where violence occurs, at least 10% to 20% of couples experience severe violence, which she defines as two or more incidents of carving something into the partner's skin, forcing sex, beating, choking, hitting, or threatening with a weapon. Such acts are usually accompanied by a high level of emotional abuse, such as name-calling, reckless driving intended to scare the partner, or harm to pets or objects.

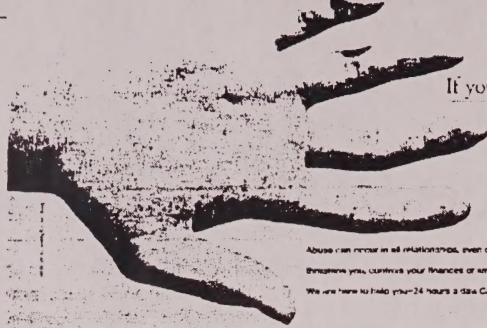
Activists in the field of gay and lesbian domestic violence say that awareness of the problem has thrown into question stereotypes of violent men and victimized women

and theories at the foundation of the battered-women's movement. "Women have organized around the fact that men beat women to control them," says Greg Merrill, gay men's domestic-violence coordinator at Community United Against Violence, a San Francisco gay and lesbian victim advocacy organization. "Lesbians and gays have organized around the fact that our relationships are more equal. That violence exists in our relationships with the same frequency and severity as in heterosexual relationships challenges that."

"It had never occurred to me in 1983 that I could be a battered woman," says Ariene Istar, a clinical social worker from Schenectady, N.Y. "After all, I was a strong, articulate, political dyke. I knew that men battered women, that women are not violent, and that lesbians were changing the world to end violence. I knew this despite the physical, emotional, and sexual abuse I lived with on a daily basis." Istar, 34, ended the two-year relationship in the winter of 1983-1984. She was battered by a mother of two who now works as a therapist, a woman she describes as equally politically conscious, creative, and loving. The woman punched, kicked, and hit Istar, threatened her with a butcher knife, and threw her naked out of the house in the snow.

While the myth about women is that they are never violent, say advocates, awareness of domestic violence in the gay male community is hampered by the belief that men are always able to defend themselves. "It's surprising that men can be victims, that not all men are perpetrators," says Merrill. "Friends of partners where there's abuse going on think of it as two men fighting."

Dave, a 38-year-old software technician in a major U.S. city, last year left an 11-year relationship that became abusive during the last two years. "Nobody would believe me," says Dave, "that this seemingly kind, gentle person would behave in this crazy way. I'm taller and bigger than he is, and it



If your lesbian or gay partner is using one of these to hurt you,
We have one to help you.

Abuse can occur in all relationships, even gay or lesbian ones. If your partner intimidates you, physically harms or threatens you, controls your finances or limits who you see and where you go, you may be in an abusive relationship. We are here to help you 24 hours a day. Call us today for confidential free counseling and help in evaluating your options.

212-807-0197

We will help you break the cycle of violence. NYC Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project

The subway poster used by the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project. Survivors "looked at this poster and said, 'Oh, my God, that's me,'" says the project's Naomi Lichtenstein.

just didn't jibe." At 6 foot 1, Dave is about a foot taller than the man who battered him.

The man, who Dave says "was always a very jealous person and suspected me of having affairs that weren't happening," would follow Dave to social events and accost him. "He would yell at me," remembers Dave. "After a while he would grab me and shake me." When Dave left and moved in with relatives, the abuse escalated—a sequence of events that victim advocates say is common. "One time when I went back to the house," recalls Dave, "he'd cut up a pair of leather pants, a leather vest, and leather boots into one-inch squares. When I realized how much time and energy that took, that was scary." The man also harassed Dave at the relatives' house. Though Dave had intended to stay with relatives only temporarily, he never moved back in with the man.

An additional impediment to recognition of domestic violence in the gay male community is a lack of awareness of or language to describe abusive power relationships, say advocates. "Men aren't used to being in personal relationships with someone who oppresses them," says Merrill. "That makes it hard for men to identify the intimate other as an oppressor."

Philip Steigerwald, a clinical social worker who treats domestic-violence victims in San Francisco, recalls the case of a man who had been physically battered for more than a decade. "After being assaulted with a lead pipe and being hospitalized, he almost died," says Steigerwald. "He was still able to seriously ask the question 'Well, do you really think that was domestic violence?'"

The only major pattern that distinguishes gay and lesbian domestic violence from heterosexual violence, say advocates, is that gay and lesbian batterers often use societal homophobia as a weapon. "There has to be an opportunity to abuse and get away with it," says Beth Zemsky, a clinical

social worker at the Gay and Lesbian Community Action Council (GLCAC) in Minneapolis. "If I go home and pop my lover in the mouth—and I know she doesn't want to be outed or no one will believe her—it's more likely that I'm going to get away with it."

Bree, 51, stayed with one woman who abused her emotionally and economically for 16 years, partly because Bree's family believed homosexuality was a mental illness and she thought she'd be put in a mental hospital if she told them about her relationship. "I didn't live with her," says Bree. "She didn't want it. I was responsible for buying all the house-maintenance supplies, yet it wasn't my home. It was a lot of teasing, subtle put-downs about my intellect. There were times I thought I just didn't want to live. I thought, *If I'm gay and this is what it is like, I won't be anything.*" Bree finally ended the relationship from sheer exhaustion, she says, falling almost immediately into another relationship that was abusive in similar ways. Ultimately, she decided to seek psychiatric help when she

began to feel ill at the prospect of going to her lover's house.

LOOKING FOR HELP

Help can be hard to find, however. Pam Elliott, coordinator of the GLCAC domestic-violence program, says, "I've encountered shelters that said, 'I'm sorry, we only have space for real battered women!'" when confronted with a lesbian in a violent relationship. Comprehensive programs that provide safe housing, legal advocacy, crisis intervention, and counseling to battered gay men and lesbians are available only in Los Angeles, Minneapolis-St. Paul, New York City, San Francisco, and Seattle. There is no listing of victim or batterer services in the gay and lesbian community, says Elliott, who has compiled her own list of 67 therapists, advocates, and support groups in 22 states.

Working on lesbian issues can threaten the bottom line of battered-women's programs. The Georgia Network Against Domestic Violence lost its state funding in 1988 and splintered into three different coalitions after it added sexual orientation to its antidiscrimination policy, says Cathy Beam, who served on the organization's board at the time. "We lost three quarters of our funds," says Beam. "And that was basically the end of the Georgia Network Against Domestic Violence."

Linda Osmundson, chairwoman of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence Battered Women's Task Force, says fear that an organization can lose its funding if it serves battered lesbians is an issue for almost any program. "The majority of people who make funding decisions are still white, privileged heterosexual men," says Osmundson. "They are not inclined to provide funding to battered women who are doing things they think are immoral."

While a handful of battered-women's shelters do serve lesbians, the number of services for gay men is minuscule. Most advocates are unaware of any domestic-vio-



Psychotherapist Vallerie Coleman. Nearly half the lesbian couples in her study had experienced violence.

BETH ZEMSKY

"The police will say, 'I can't tell who the batterer is.'"

lence programs that serve gay men; Istar says she has heard of one shelter that accepts gay men: Unity House Families in Crisis near Albany, N.Y. A spokeswoman for Unity House says the program serves at most one gay man a year. Lichtenstein and Merrill arrange housing for battered gay men with friends or family. Homeless shelters, both say, are a choice of last resort since they are unsafe and frequently homophobic. Cornerstone, a program in Bloom-

ington, Minn., arranges housing for any victim of domestic violence on a space-available basis in local hotels nationwide.

"We need to organize our own movement," says Merrill. "But there aren't enough men interested. I'm pretty angry at men who can't realize that we need to address this ourselves." Across the nation, Merrill estimates, there are no more than 20 people working on the problem of gay male domestic violence—and four of them live in San

Francisco.

Matt Foreman, an attorney and executive director of the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, says the criminal-justice system, like the social-services establishment, has little to offer gay and lesbian victims of domestic violence. Foreman points to mandatory arrest laws, which in many states require police to make arrests on domestic-violence calls, as an example of laws that are not used to help lesbian and gay male victims. It's common, he says, for both people in a battering situation to accuse each other. "But when it comes to same-sex couples and the finger is pointed in both directions," says Foreman, "rather than looking at what seems to us rather clear physical evidence—i.e., one person has been really beat up—the police will say, 'I can't tell who the batterer is.' Police assume, he says, "that men use fists to deal with emotions and lesbians fight because they're butch and tough."

Victim advocates say lesbians and gay men have good reason to feel reluctant to open their relationships to the scrutiny of the courts. While the law in Minnesota, for example, treats lesbian and heterosexual domestic-violence cases equally, Elliott says that homophobia in the court system means lesbians are treated differently. "They'll say to a lesbian more often than to straight women, 'We're not gonna prosecute,'" contends Elliott. "You can take two cases with the same circumstances, and they'll take the heterosexual case."

When prosecutions do take place, says Elliott, homophobia in the courtroom results in light sentences. She cites a case in which a battered woman brought charges against her former lover. "The violence done to this woman was one of the worst I've ever heard of in any kind of relationship: rape, beating, permanent injury," says Elliott. "And she got six months' probation. How many lesbians am I going to get to go through that? I'm not encouraging our community to use the legal system unless it's for restraining orders."

BATTERERS AND THE COMMUNITY

Advocates point to other reasons not to seek help from the courts. Perhaps because

An Invisible Crime: Lesbian Rape

Gail and Joan celebrated their fifth anniversary with dinner and dancing in Philadelphia. Joan had too much to drink, and when they got home, she began pushing Gail to have sex. When Gail refused, Joan forced her. "I called the police," remembers Gail. It took them two hours to arrive, and when I told them I had been raped by Joan, they just got up and left."

For three years following the incident, which ended the relationship, Gail found herself unable to be sexual with another woman. Eight years later, Gail still has difficulty talking about the rape.

While no national statistics are available on the incidence of lesbian rape, Mary Allen, coordinator of Lesbian Advocacy and Lesbian Battering Intervention at the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women in St. Paul, believes that sexual assault is "part of the whole lesbian battering issue just as it is part of battering in heterosexual relationships." Allen states that some form of sexual assault occurs in over 50% of abusive lesbian relationships reported to her program.

Jill Tregor, program coordinator of Community United Against Violence in San Francisco, believes that lesbian rape is a more frequent occurrence than lesbians acknowledge. "As women, lesbians are conditioned to violence," says Tregor. "Lesbians don't report crimes against them when they are committed by strangers—men. Are they likely to report violence against them perpetrated by other women that they know or even live with?"

Women are loath to admit that rape can be a problem in the lesbian community, say activists. Christina Wildlake, midwestern co-

ordinator for the National Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NCASA) and a survivor of lesbian rape, says she encountered this resistance when she planned a workshop on the problem for the group's annual conference last July. Organizers of the conference posted an announcement on the door to the workshop room warning that "the subject matter might be graphic or unsettling."

"We dealt with the situation as it happened," says an NCASA spokeswoman. "It was something new for us, and it made a lot of people uncomfortable." But Wildlake contends that the incident is indicative of a larger problem. "Lesbians are at the very foundation of the rape-crisis movement," she says, "yet there are no services for us. We've become totally invisible in this area." No workshop on lesbian rape is planned for this year's conference.

None of the ten major U.S. cities has services designed specifically for lesbians who are raped by other women, although some victim-assistance organizations offer individual counseling for victims of lesbian and gay male rape. Survivors and their advocates argue that victims of lesbian rape urgently need services designed specifically for them. "One of the worst problems for lesbians who have been sexually assaulted by other women," says Gail, "is that they think it's *their* fault—that they have made another woman do something so antiwoman. We need services to cope with that dilemma, and we need rape-crisis centers to understand that it is just as terrible—maybe more so—to be raped by another woman as it is by a man. We are victims too. And we need help."

—Victoria A. Brownworth

"I'm not encouraging our community to use the legal system."

in gay and lesbian relationships both the batterer and the victim are usually members of the same community—and advocates may be reluctant to write off a member of that community or to hand him or her over to a biased criminal-justice system—efforts to provide treatment for batterers are a more significant part of the work of gay and lesbian domestic-violence activists than they have been in the battered-women's movement.

In *Men Who Beat the Men Who Love Them*, authors David Island, a psychotherapist, and Patrick Letellier, a survivor of domestic violence, put forth the controversial theory that all batterers have a diagnosable mental illness. Island and Letellier draw on several diagnostic categories discussed by the American Psychiatric Association—using primarily a category called sadistic personality disorder—and list criteria, including using physical cruelty or violence; humiliating, dominating, or terrorizing their victims; and restricting their behavior. "We need to stop analyzing battering as a sociopolitical problem and face the fact that it's a psychological problem," says Island. "They are uncivilized, they are primitive, they are undersocialized. They need a lot of help."

"The logic is, if you hurt somebody you love, you must be crazy," objects social worker Zemsky. "There's been a fair amount of research about heterosexual batterers that indicates they're no different from other men in terms of mental illness, that they don't have a psychopathology. That's what's scary: These people are otherwise normal; these are people that are not sick."

Island readily acknowledges that part of his motive is to get treatment for batterers covered by insurance "so that Charlie X as a batterer can go to his health care provider under his health care plan at Boeing and get the standard treatment he would get for alcohol abuse or anything else," he explains.

Psychotherapist Ned Farley, who worked with lesbian, gay, and bisexual batterers for nine years at the Seattle Counseling Service for Sexual Minorities, bristles at the idea that batterers should be diagnosed as mentally ill to get their treatment paid for. "It's totally unjustifiable," says Farley. "I don't think we're talking about mental illness. Some perpetrators can be classified with a mental illness

Abused and Isolated: Gay and Lesbian Teens

From the time he was 15 until he was nearly 21, Jim McCauley was "hit, slapped, beaten, and generally punched up" by the men he dated. "I was a kid, I came from a very tight-knit suburban neighborhood in New Jersey, and I dated the guys I could find who were out," says McCauley, a 21-year-old Philadelphia college student.

Because all his relationships were violent, says McCauley, he assumed abuse "was just a part of what guys did together. I mean, straight guys were always punching and slugging each other, so I thought gay guys did too. It took a really nice man and a very good therapist to tell me it was different."

Paul Busovic, who, with Irene Basile, conducts seminars on teen dating violence in high schools in Philadelphia and its suburbs, states that "over 50% of all high school kids are experiencing some kind of abuse in their relationships." A 1987 study of 3,000 young people published in the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* and a 1989 study of 5,000 students in *Social Casework: The Journal of Contemporary Social Work* found that 65% to 70% of college students and 35% to 50% or more of high school students had been in violent dating relationships.

Basile, who serves as coordinator of

the Domestic Violence Program of the Lutheran Settlement House for Women in Philadelphia, believes that the percentage of gay and lesbian youth who experience dating violence is even higher. "The pressures of homophobia and sexism exacerbate the violence that already exists in most teenage relationships," Basile states. "Just like the heterosexual form of teen dating violence is a direct reflection of sexism, this type is a direct reflection of homophobia."

Barrie Levy, a Los Angeles-based social worker who works extensively with lesbian teens, notes that the few resources that are available to battered lesbians are often closed to teenagers. "The lesbian community must evaluate how accessible its activities are to young women," the social worker says.

"We need to recognize that these young women are in trouble," agrees Roberta Hacker, executive director of Women in Transition in Philadelphia, the nation's oldest program for abused women. "If a young lesbian is taught that she deserves to be victimized—and that's what the society is teaching her—then that's what she's going to incorporate into her life."

—Victoria A. Brownworth

but not with the same one."

The only trait predictable in batterers, Farley says, is that every one is perpetuating a relentless cycle of familial violence. Over five years, Farley culled data from 279 clients, 60% of whom were female. Among his findings are the following statistics:

▼88% of the women and 93% of the men who later abused their lovers reported being physically abused as children;

▼94% of the women and 67% of the men reported being sexually abused as children; and

▼81% of the women and 80% of the men knew that their parents or guardians had been abused as children.

Therapists say that communities fracture over whether gay and women's agencies should provide treatment for batterers. One of the reasons lesbians minimize violence in

their community, says Elliott, is that they don't want to write off lesbian batterers the way the battered-women's movement writes off men. But many advocates say that before batterers get treatment or their victims receive adequate protection, gay and lesbian communities must be convinced that the problem of domestic violence exists.

"The domestic-violence movement is a movement to protect women from men's violence," says social worker and violence survivor Istar. "Lesbians and gay men fall outside the limit of the domestic violence community by and large, and we haven't created services in our own community yet. I know [gay and lesbian domestic violence] exists, I've known it exists for eight years, and I have people in my office crying their eyes out. What am I supposed to say to them: 'Down with the patriarchy'?" ▼

CHAPTER EIGHT

Lesbians and Abuse

Most incidents of domestic violence are perpetrated by men against women and children. As noted in previous chapters, society gives men permission to exert power and control within their families.

Women have been conditioned to be passive and nurturing and are generally less prone to acts of violence than are men. However, women involved in same-sex relationships are not immune to battering. For example, Fran Staton, an African-American therapist who practices in Berkeley, California, reports that more than half of her Black lesbian clients have been physically and/or emotionally abused by their female lovers at some point in their lives.

Not only does a lesbian relationship not provide a guarantee against domestic violence, but the secrecy and silence often imposed on the relationship by anti-gay bias in society often make intervention more difficult. Unlike heterosexuals, many gays are unable to live and love openly. Although some states have passed laws prohibiting discrimination against homosexuals, gays and lesbians can still lose jobs, housing and child-custody battles because of their sexual identity. They can still be kicked out of the church and the military because of who they love.

And despite recent gains made by the gay rights movement, many homosexuals still fear rejection from friends and family members if they "come out of the closet" about their sexuality.

For "closeted" lesbians to speak about abuse is to expose a

previously hidden relationship and risk both personal and public censure.

Society also has difficulty accepting the existence of lesbian violence because it disrupts our traditional views about women. We are taught to believe that women are more gentle and understanding than men. We expect them to have good communication skills and an innate ability to "kiss and make it better." That a woman could beat, slap, kick or verbally abuse another woman is unimaginable to us.

Even lesbians themselves have been slow to acknowledge or confront the violence in their community. Denial, a reluctance to fuel anti-gay sentiments and a desire to preserve their own physical and emotional safety are among the reasons that many lesbians have been silent about same-sex abuse.

A coordinator of services for battered lesbians in the San Francisco Bay area says: "Society already thinks our relationships aren't valid, so it's even harder to admit that domestic violence occurs in our relationships, too. I can understand why people don't want to air this dirty laundry. But we can't let fear of negative stereotyping control us."

Additional Burdens

The low self-esteem, lack of confidence and deep need to control that triggers some men to violate their partners also exist among some lesbians. Indeed, aside from their sexual preference for women, lesbians are no different from any other group. Like their heterosexual peers, lesbians who grow up in violent homes learn that battering is an acceptable form of behavior.

Forced to contend with prejudices against their race, gender and sexuality, lesbians of African descent bear additional burdens that can create strains in their intimate relationships. According to research conducted recently by University of California at Los Angeles psychologists Susan Cochran and Vickie Mays, a homosexual or bisexual Black woman suffers more depressive distress, including suicidal thoughts, than a gay Black man infected with

HIV.¹

Their findings were based on levels of depressive distress measured through such indicators as blues, loneliness, fears, physical symptoms, relationship problems and frequency of suicidal thoughts.

Sylvia Rhue, a Los Angeles clinical social worker described the "triple whammy" of racism, sexism and homophobia experienced by Black lesbians this way:

It's not because we're lesbian and Black that we have higher levels of psychiatric dysfunction, but because we have so many things put upon us by being Black and lesbian. Let's look at the economic factors that cause stress and depression. If you're female, you statistically make less than a man. If you're Black, you make statistically less than white people. If you're gay, you can be fired at any second and potentially have fewer opportunities if you're out of the closet.

Research conducted by Rhue shows that thirty-three percent of Black lesbians also face the stresses of being mothers. And all Black gays and lesbians are subject to disapproval and rejection from the most influential institution in the African-American community — the Black church.

Among Blacks, homosexuality has historically been viewed as an "abnormal" lifestyle that undermines the strength and power of the race. This attitude is based on the erroneous assumption that gays and lesbians do not have children.

Moreover, the scripture-based teachings against homosexuality espoused in the traditional Black church make many Black lesbians feel that their relationships are sinful. Abused Black lesbians can come to believe that the violence they are suffering is "punishment" from God because they are intimate with women, not men.

One Woman's Story

All the factors just outlined conspired to keep Belinda, a forty-three-year-old administrator, in an abusive relationship with

another Black women for more than two years. The mother of two pre-teen sons, Belinda agreed to let her lover move in with her shortly after their romance began. A relationship that first appeared loving and supportive soon turned sour when the woman immediately began to control Belinda and her boys.

Rationalizing her behavior by saying that she wanted to keep their home tidy, the woman insisted that Belinda's sons stay holed up in their room most of the time. She also got upset whenever Belinda's friends or family members came to visit. The woman claimed to be head over heels in love with Belinda and thus demanded that they devote all their time and energy to the relationship. Flattered by the attention, Belinda soon found herself completely isolated from friends, relatives and co-workers.

Promises

The relationship deteriorated as the couple argued about meals, money, outings and the supervision of Belinda's children. The shouting matches escalated into physical fights. During one such altercation, Belinda shoved her lover while attempting to flee the room. Her lover fell to the floor, breaking her arm.

In the aftermath of each fight, the woman would express remorse and promise not to abuse Belinda again. She would be kind to the boys and bring them special treats. She would also buy Belinda gifts and cook her favorite meals and their strained sex life would improve.

It was during these "honeymoon phases" that Belinda felt nurtured by her lover and confident that the relationship would flourish. She said:

There would be times when she'd be really nice to me. I'd come home and the house would be really clean and the boys seemed happy. I would relish the good times when she was feeling okay and the relationship seemed to be working. But then it would go back to being bad.

As with all batterers mired in the cycle of domestic violence, Belinda's partner made a promise she could not keep.

Paralysis

Belinda recalled another upsetting incident during which she feared her lover might strike her. She said she had invited a few friends to their home to celebrate her partner's birthday. Incensed that one of the guests had inadvertently put her foot up on the coffee table, Belinda's lover blamed her for the guest's behavior and began to berate her in front of the group.

"She started banging plates around and screaming at me to hurry up and cut the cake because she wanted people out of the house," Belinda said. "I was so embarrassed. I just asked people to leave."

Paralyzed by fear and ashamed to tell anyone about the mayhem in her life, Belinda tried desperately to "keep the lid on" her partner. She admonished her sons to behave and deferred to the woman's every request, all to no avail. Finally, in desperation, Belinda called an abused women's hotline and got information about obtaining a restraining order. But her shame about the relationship prevented her from following through. She believed, as her lover had told her, that she would be "laughed out of court" if she brought a domestic violence complaint against another woman. Throughout the ordeal, Belinda never once considered phoning the police for help.

At Belinda's insistence, her lover eventually moved out. In the wake of her departure, the woman ransacked Belinda's apartment and splattered paint all over her car. For more than a year after the breakup, Belinda received menacing phone calls from the woman. She lived in terror that her ex-lover would show up at her job and kill her, as the woman had threatened to do.

Scar Tissue

Nearly five years after her last contact with the woman, Belinda still carries the pain of the relationship. As part of her recovery

J-3

process, Belinda started individual counseling and group therapy and made a decision to return to school.

Reflecting on her years in an abusive relationship, Belinda says:

When I look back at the insanity of it all now, I know that I stayed because of my self-esteem. The fact that I didn't have any. It was the kind of relationship my mother had with my father. I saw my mother just stay and put up with the abuse, so that's what I learned.

I was also ashamed to let anybody know what was happening in my house. I was ashamed about what I was putting my kids through. I felt really guilty. I blamed myself for getting involved with a woman who mistreated me. It was like I deserved it. It was my punishment for being a dyke.

Fran Staton, the Berkeley therapist, says that, as with abused heterosexual women, it is common for battered lesbians to feel responsible for the abuse they suffer. Fully aware of the powerlessness and invisibility that lesbians experience in most arenas of their lives, abused Black lesbians can be more willing to defer to their partners as a means of compensating for the slights their lovers suffer in the outside world.

Notes a Black woman involved with a prominent, but still struggling, Black lesbian singer: "My lover is more talented than most of her white lesbian peers. Sometimes she takes out her frustrations on me. It hurts, but I understand it."

Like their heterosexual counterparts, abusive Black lesbian relationships give rise to injury, alienation and mistrust. And children reared in violent lesbian households suffer damaging long-term effects.

Today in his early twenties, Belinda's youngest son says his childhood years were marred by the abusive acts he witnessed between his mother and her partner:

They used to fight all the time. I mean every day there would

be an argument about something. I was just a nine-year-old kid trying to play with my toys and read my comic books in peace. It was confusing. I didn't know what the hell was going on.

Just the other day I was joking around with my girlfriend. I was trying to get my point across. I didn't hit her or push her or nothing. I gave her a little nudge. She called me "Ike Turner." She said I was playing too rough. I was shocked. I didn't realize it. I don't want to end up being violent. So I'm going to watch myself with that. I don't want to end up doing the same stuff I saw as a kid. I don't want to be a brute.

Battered lesbians can experience a variety of long-term problems including depression, anxiety, eating disorders, sexual dysfunction and substance abuse. Often unable to talk about the abuse because of anti-gay bias, many suffer in isolation and shame. Some avoid future intimate relationships out of a fear of being violated again.

Belinda attributes the failure of a subsequent relationship, in part, to the physical and emotional pain she endured with her abusive partner:

I didn't give the woman a chance. There was no way, shape or form that I was ever going to be abused again so I was intolerant of a lot of stuff with this woman. I didn't cut her any slack. Right now, I'd love to be in a relationship, but I'm scared at the same time. I have a lot of mistrust.

Getting Help

Lesbians working to get out of an abusive relationship have the same options available to heterosexual women. However, because of homophobia or a lack of sensitivity to the issues involved in same-sex violence, lesbians can encounter problems exercising those options and getting access to already limited services.

The most important step a battered lesbian can take is to tell someone about the abuse. Although you may have concerns about revealing your sexual identity, or shame about being mistreated by another woman, remember that your safety depends on breaking the conspiracy of silence about your abuse.

Domestic violence continues, in part, because batterers are not held accountable for their actions. They are often in denial about their behavior and will claim the violence is their partner's fault. By sharing your experiences with a friend, family member or helping professional you develop resources that can provide intervention in your abuse.

The Police

The commonly held view of domestic violence is gendered: men batter, women are battered. Because of this view, police have a tendency to minimize abuse in gay/lesbian relationships.

They may be reluctant to write up an incident report because the complainants are women. They may suggest that lesbianism is the problem rather than any violent or criminal act.

However, battered women's advocates stress adamantly that fear of a homophobic legal system should not keep lesbians who are in imminent danger from calling the police. Assault, perpetrated by *any* person against *any* person is against the law in *every* state in the country.

If the situation is dangerous, call the police. There's no guarantee that "Officer Do Right" will come to help, but some help in an emergency is better than nothing.

The Criminal Justice System

The statutory definition of domestic violence varies from state to state. Although a lesbian battered anywhere by her partner has a right to get help from police, lesbians may have difficulty obtaining access to such legal tools as a temporary restraining order. A legal advocate from a battered women's shelter, a gay/lesbian

law organization or service agency is your best resource for finding out how to get a restraining order (See Resources).

Stanford Law School student Adele M. Morrison is an African-American woman who has conducted research on lesbian battering. She offers the following words for Black lesbians in abusive relationships to consider:

In a few instances, it may simplify legal proceedings to approach the particular "incident" that brings a battered lesbian to the legal system as an assault. Because of homophobia, the system might be more likely to offer some remedy if the woman does not include the history of abuse or the truth about her relationship (i.e., that the perpetrator is her lover or ex-lover) as part of her case.

However, this can be a risky tactic, especially when the issue is a battered lesbian who has killed her partner. The lover/partner relationship, which is an aspect of the "battered women's syndrome," (a theory utilized to successfully defend some women), can excuse or justify the action taken. When the true nature of the relationship is not introduced, then the "battered women's syndrome" can not be used as a mitigating factor or as evidence for a self-defense claim.²

Shelters and Counseling

To date, shelters specifically for battered lesbians do not exist. Because the lesbian community, for the most part, has not admitted that the problem exists, there is a nationwide dearth of services for lesbian and bisexual women who have been battered by other women.

The shelters and counseling services available to battered heterosexual women are available to lesbians in abusive relationships; however, a battered lesbian may encounter service providers who are unfamiliar with the issues involved in same-sex domestic violence.

You can minimize the possibility that you will be "harmed" again by an insensitive police officer, therapist, shelter worker or legal advocate by asking a trusted friend or family member to assist you in your efforts to get help. This means, as stated previously, you must tell someone about your abuse. As long as discussions about woman-to-woman domestic violence are silenced, the community cannot support the survivors or confront the batterers, and nothing will change.

Subject to racism, sexism and homophobia, Black lesbians in abusive relationships, clearly, have additional obstacles to face. But by focusing on your needs and your right to a loving partner, you can transform those obstacles into tools of empowerment.

As Belinda says:

First of all, do not believe that the person is going to change. No matter what you do, she's not going to change. Don't keep it to yourself. Tell somebody you are being abused and try to get help. If you're a battered lesbian, you might think there's no way out. But there is. I'm living proof.

conducting qualitative research, the ing, supportive, and cordial interacting ourselves for genuineness in such end our judgments, taking the par-sufficient concern for understanding re specifically, in conducting inter-re are two additional aspects of the unteers note as important: the sense onally and cognitively "present," rifying questions, and communicat-*stening* and seems to *understand* the of interaction between interviewer s that there are *two* persons engaged a distant and intellectual stance may ne and "under the microscope" of her hand, acknowledging affective ul probes or clarifications appear to e freely explore material of impor- e time, allowing the interviewer to ch guidelines.

there can neither be too much talk- the trauma of incest. The more we arch in this area, the more we will sensitive investigations. Childhood w up and "grow out" of their early s likely to be carried on in the fabric ys obvious and subtle, probably for ist be aware that the research setting e drama may be played out.

ERENCE

tings. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publish-

Enmeshed in Pain: Counseling the Lesbian Battering Couple

Elaine Leeder

I met her at a friend's home. She looked disheveled, morose, and had obviously been beaten. There were bruises and welts around her face. Having been abused regularly by her partner for years, she told me she was at a point where she wanted to do something about it. There had been hair-pulling, biting, kicking, and screaming, and it had gone on periodically throughout their years together. But she kept referring to her "partner," never once mentioning gender. When she became more comfortable and relaxed in my presence, she finally said the word "she." I was shocked! But this was in 1982. I had never before heard of women beating one another—at least not in the context of a "couple" relationship. Since that time, I have become painfully aware that this type of abuse is a recurrent phenomenon. But at the time, I was absolutely flabbergasted. Unfortunately, to my knowledge, she never called me or anyone else for help.

Elaine Leeder, MSW, CSW, MPH, PhD, teaches sociology and social work at Ithaca College. Dr. Leeder also has a small private psychotherapy practice and is a writer of anarchist women's history, including *The Gentle Warrior: Rose Pasotta, Anarchist and Labor Organizer*. Address correspondence to Muller Center, Sociology Department, Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY 14850.

Women & Therapy, Vol. 7(1) 1988

© 1988 by The Haworth Press, Inc. All rights reserved.

81

APPENDIX K

In recent years there has been growing awareness of a newly identified form of domestic violence. My reading and clinical experience indicate that lesbian battering has been denied by the community in which it occurs and ignored by the therapeutic community as well. Now it becomes the responsibility of those who work with victims and/or perpetrators of lesbian battering to understand the dynamics and treatment of this phenomenon. Many of the themes are the same as in dealing with heterosexual abusive relationships. However, there are a number of problems specific to being a lesbian in a homophobic society and the nature of lesbian dyads that makes treatment even more challenging to the therapist who works with such women.

Although it is believed that lesbian battering has been with us for quite a while (Lobel, 1986), it was not until the Lesbian Task Force of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence held a meeting in 1983 that it was first addressed publicly. The lesbian community had been hesitant in dealing with it until a few courageous women began to speak out about the abuse they had received at the hands of their women lovers. Finally, in 1986, the first book appeared on the topic. *Naming the Violence: Speaking Out About Lesbian Battering* (Lobel) was an excellent first step in educating lesbians and the public in general regarding the extent and forms that the violence may take. In addition, it addressed the community's response to the problem, in terms of developing support groups for the victims and trying to educate staff to lesbian problems within the battered women's shelter movement.

My own experience in working with lesbian batterers and victims began about four years ago with one couple involved in an abusive dynamic. The violence was brief and what I have termed a "situational battering" relationship. Since that time, I have worked with individuals and with couples and have discerned two other patterns of abuse: the "chronic battering" relationship and "emotional or psychological battering." Each of the three types of abuse has its own particular causes, dynamics, and treatments. Each one presents its own specific problems and each has its own unique patterns of interactions. All three of the forms will be defined and described below.

ISSUES AND MYTHS RELATIVE TO LESBIAN BATTERING

Definition of Lesbian Battering

Hart (1986, p. 173) has defined lesbian battering as:

. . . that pattern of violent and coercive behaviors whereby a lesbian seeks to control the thoughts, beliefs, or conduct of her intimate partner or to punish the intimate for resisting the perpetrator's control over her. . . . If the assaulted partner becomes fearful of the violator, if she modifies her behavior in response to the assault or to avoid future abuse, or if the victim intentionally maintains a particular consciousness or behavioral repertoire to avoid violence, despite her preference not to do so, she is battered. . . . The violence may include personal assaults, sexual abuse, property destruction, violence directed at friends, family or pets or threats thereof. It may involve weapons and is invariably coupled with nonphysical abuse, including homophobic attacks on the victim, economic exploitation and psychological abuse.

Myths

When individuals think at all about lesbian relationships—or more specifically, battering—they hold a number of myths that are not based on fact or experience (Brown, nd). For example, it has often been assumed that it is the stronger or "butch" type lesbian who is usually the batterer. In fact, those roles often do not define who is stronger, nor do all lesbian relationships emulate the butch-femme dichotomy. In fact, frequently those who are stronger may not choose to engage in violence to convey their unhappiness. Violence actually occurs within most, if not all, types of lesbian relationships: feminist, radical feminist, traditional, and role-typed couples. However, the incidence is still hard to determine due to the newness of public awareness and only recent interest among researchers (Brand & Kidd, 1986).

Another myth is that because the two women are often equal in size, they engage in "mutual battering" and that the partners are

equally violent. In reality, although more lesbians may fight back than do heterosexual victims, these women are actually acting in self-defense, and are not engaging in abusive and coercive violence. In addition, even though one may think women inflict less harm because of their generally smaller size than men, unfortunately, size is no predictor of physical damage done in lesbian relationships.

One might also think that lesbian women are as likely as heterosexual women to identify themselves as victims and seek help. Again, unfortunately, this is not the case. Because a lesbian often believes that she is to blame for the victimization and that she should somehow heal the batterer, she is likely to deny that she is being abused, as is the case with heterosexual women. In addition, she may have fought back, which makes her think she is an equal participant. She may also believe that problems between women can be worked out with words and is reluctant to admit that she cannot solve or work through the problem alone or with her partner. In addition, even if she was willing to get help, there is the problem of scarcity of resources inasmuch as most battered women's shelters do not provide support for lesbians.

Because it involves two women and because women are generally more amenable to psychotherapy (Chesler, 1972), there is a myth that the battering problem of lesbian couples is somehow easier to treat and will have longer lasting results, as opposed to heterosexual couples. However, in light of limited experience within the therapeutic community, it appears that lesbian battering relationships are equally, if not harder, to treat than heterosexual battering relationships in that there is a resistance on the part of the victim and the abuser to admit that problems exist and to commit themselves to the long-term therapy that is required.

Similarities to and Differences from Heterosexual Abuse

My own clinical experience indicates that there are a number of characteristics which make lesbian batterers similar to male batterers. However, there are also unique factors due to being a lesbian. As with heterosexual abusers, the batterers may be having economic problems and may also be using drugs and/or alcohol to escape from and avoid their problems. They may also have experi-

enced abuse or victimization as children or may have seen it in their family of origin. However, because of the homophobia that is rampant around us, there is an added element that comes to bear on a lesbian's life. She may not only have internalized society's negative images of lesbians, but she is also fearful of reprisal from the outside community, which is a further deterrent to admitting the problem (Benowitz, 1986). Homophobia adds to her isolation and inability to reach out for help, as well as causing the violence. Often, the lesbian batterer has internalized the negative social image. Although on the outside, she may protest she is proud of her sexual preference, internally, she may feel shame and doubt concerning her own value as a human being. These internal and external stressors may move her to violence.

In many ways lesbian battering is similar to heterosexual battering in that it recapitulates Lenore Walker's cycle theory of violence (Walker, 1979). Lesbian couples invariably go through the tension building phase, move into the acute battering incident, and then the loving, contrite behavior. It is in this stage that the battered lesbian often takes her partner back, if she has set limits and thrown the batterer out, and colludes with her own victimization by believing that it will never happen again. Additionally, the victim often feels—as Walker has observed in heterosexual battering—that it is somehow her fault that the battering has occurred. She really believes that if only she were “the right” kind of partner, her lover would not have to engage in such abusive behavior. Somehow, the two of them believe that it is the dynamic interaction between them that causes the violence rather than seeing that the responsibility is the batterer's: that no one deserves to be beaten. Together the two engage in a collusion of silence, rarely confronting the responsible party for the problem. Instead, they make up and hope that it will not happen again. Ultimately, the cycle starts all over again.

TYPES AND TREATMENT OF THE THREE FORMS OF LESBIAN ABUSE

Situational Abuse

Stemming from my clinical experience, I have defined the three types of abuse introduced above. The first is the situational relation-

K-B-81

ship in which the abuse may occur once—or perhaps a few times—never to appear again. Often, this condition develops because of some situational event(s) that throws the couple into a crisis.

Clinical Example

Marsha and Kate had been together for three years and had never had a violent incident. Although Marsha had been violent once before in a previous relationship, there had never been the same kind of tensions and lack of communication in her relationship with Kate. After three years, Kate decided that she wanted to have a sexual experience with another woman in order to determine whether or not she wanted to make a commitment to Marsha. Marsha was quite insecure and jealous over the new lover Kate was seeing. When she tried to confront Kate, the latter insisted that she needed to have the freedom and independence to go through with this experience. Marsha became increasingly agitated and jealous.

As the problem developed, Kate began to lie and cover her stories about seeing the new lover. When Marsha found out about the lies, she insisted that she could no longer live with the situation and decided to the end the relationship. Kate refused to let Marsha leave and actually blocked the entrance to the room. Marsha, already in an agitated state, threw Kate down and held her with great force against the bed. With much screaming and crying, Kate finally got free, and Marsha ran from the house. The incident lasted for a number of hours—with tears, accusations, and, finally, resolution. Kate decided to give up the new lover and make her commitment to Marsha. Although this violence repeated itself once more at a later date, there has been no evidence that the violence continued beyond this crisis.

Treatment of Situational Abuse

The work of the therapist in cases of situational abuse is that of crisis intervention. With Marsha and Kate, for example, the couple was seen together and then individually. With the couple, work was done in helping them talk civilly to each other, and for each to say how the experience of violence felt to them. Marsha acknowledged her responsibility in the incidents, and Kate was able to confront Marsha in a safe place as to how she felt about having been abused.

Through couples counseling, they were able to decide if they wanted to remain together and how to work out the details of resolving the tensions between them. A suitable process was implemented in their communication patterns: helping them learn to talk to and hear each other without resorting to violence. The sessions were only six in number, as is usual for crisis intervention. By the end of the contract, all parties felt that the problem had been resolved. In fact, there has not been a recurrence of the violence in three years, and the couple is now living together.

Essentially in working with the situational battering couple, the therapist's responsibility is one of crisis intervention: teaching effective communication techniques and providing an open environment for the victim to confront her abuser. The therapist becomes a catalyst for better communication and serves as a role model for reasoned responses in crisis situations. This type of battering counseling is the easiest and the most rewarding. The outcome is often quite favorable, and the clients are satisfied with the resolution.

Chronic Abuse

The chronically abusive lesbian-battering couple relationship is one in which violence occurs two or more times, demonstrating increasingly destructive behavior. The violence escalates over time and, in many cases, actually leads to life-threatening situations. This type of abuse may lead to bodily injury and become so volatile that the police are called to intervene. The author has become acutely aware that this problem is more prevalent than what had been first anticipated. Although I have no estimates of prevalence, I have encountered five cases in the last four years within my own private practice. The local task force for battered women (which has just begun its own lesbian battering project) has received five calls in the last year from lesbians regarding violent relationships (Joanne Farbman, personal communication, December 1986).

These chronically abusive couples have a number of similarities to each other. Often, they are financially attached—sometimes by living together and sharing a home/apartment or by one being financially dependent on the other.

In addition, they are more often than not emotionally entangled or enmeshed. Their lives are intertwined in innumerable ways:

physically, psychologically, and socially. Often these women share friends, space, and see each other as crucially integral to their daily lives. Literature has been written on this enmeshed nature of lesbian couples (Burch, 1986). These couples are certainly no different in that regard. It is difficult to know where one person ends and the other begins.

Clinical Example

Flo and Susan lived together for five years. Each had been married before becoming involved with the other. Both had children from their marriages. When it was decided that they should live together, they brought their children with them. Susan became a parent to Flo's two children; she supported the family financially and was a popular, well-respected physical therapist in the local hospitals. She had come from a happy home life and described her background as one like "Ozzie and Harriet" or "Father Knows Best." Flo, on the other hand, had come from a home where she was beaten, psychologically abused, and emotionally deprived. Two members of her family were diagnosed as schizophrenic, and her mother was a battered wife. By the age of fourteen, Flo had been placed in a home for juvenile delinquent girls. She never graduated high school, ran away from home often, and engaged in violent behavior with siblings and friends. She had never been violent in her marriage, but had been known to physically "discipline" her children, sometimes severely.

The abuse began between Flo and Susan soon after they became lovers. Flo would drink heavily, become verbally abusive, and finally lashed out physically. Susan tried to protect herself and actually hit back a few times. However, she found that if she did so, the violence became worse. Whenever she saw the "tension building" phase begin, she would do all she could to defuse the situation. Sometimes that was effective, and the violence would be minimal or would not occur at all. When the violence did happen, it could last for just a few minutes or go on all evening. This was the acute battering incident. Susan tried to talk to Flo while it was happening, but Flo always blamed Susan for the issue at hand. Eventually, both Susan and Flo believed that it was Susan's fault that she was being

beaten. Flo often felt that Susan harassed her, and that if she would just be left alone, no problem would develop. However, if Susan did leave her alone, Flo felt abandoned and would sulk and carry on about being ignored. Susan was in a *no win* situation: nothing she could do would satisfy Flo. Obviously, this was Walker's observation of the cycle of abuse in operation.

Ultimately, the violence concluded, and Flo and Susan would make up, each promising to be better the next time, with Susan promising that she would not harass Flo again. The loving and contrite behavior phase was upon them. Subsequently, the cycle would begin again. This pattern went on for five years before they sought help.

The psychological characteristics of the abuser seem to recur regardless of race, class, or ethnic background. These women tend to have extremely poor self-images and are actually rather fragile under their superficial bravado. Many fear abandonment and loss, while still orchestrating situations in which they will lose or push away the one person in the world who loves them. The family background is one lacking in emotional caring, with a heavy disciplinary quality to the parent-child interactions. Often they come from authoritarian families in which violence is an accepted part of the family dynamics. The father is usually the head of the household and maintains a traditional definition of role distribution in the family. Mother is somehow a victim as well, either colluding with the father's authority or actually being victimized herself. The client sees the world as a hostile place, one in which she must protect herself from those in power.

Based on my clinical experience, I find that often the chronic abuser also has poorly developed verbal skills. Her communication patterns are problematic. Perhaps she has not learned to express her feelings or, in fact, may not actually be aware of what her feelings are at all. She may not even be aware of her anger or that there is potential violence. She is quick to anger and does not see or understand what the other person may be feeling or experiencing. Instead, she is self-absorbed in her own unhappiness, as generalized as it might be. Because she does not know how to communicate with her partner, she resorts to her fists to convey the depths of her dismay.

12-21

The abuser sometimes uses alcohol or drugs to mask her poor self-image. Although the chemicals do not cause the violence, they exacerbate an already difficult situation. One will not become violent just because these chemicals are present. However, if one already has the inclination to be abusive, they provide the catalyst for the behavior, if all other conditions are present as well. Chemical interaction is often present in chronically abusive relationships.

The psychological characteristics of the victim are also distinctive and unique to women in violent relationships. Again, they seem to have no relationship to race, class, or ethnic origin. If a woman chooses to stay with the batterer, my experience indicates that she has learned her helplessness well: she colludes and participates in her own victimization by not setting limits, calling the police, or getting outside help. Frequently, she comes to believe that she is to blame for the problem. She also believes that she is the only one who can help the batterer. Because she wants to remain with her lover, she disregards her own safety in her efforts to constantly make excuses for her lover's actions. She reasons that love will overcome the abuse; and that because the abuser has suffered so in the past, it is her duty to stand by her, even if her own life is threatened. The victim is protective of her abuser, hoping that with time and nurturance, her lover will cease the abuse. Inauspiciously, this does not occur. As the literature on treatment of men who batter indicates, it is when the police are called and when the abuser fears incarceration that they begin to think that the violence is unacceptable (Gelles, 1983). Negative repercussions are often the most effective means to ending the violence. Often batterers are abusive because they are allowed to be; they do it because they can. Sadly, the lesbian victim cannot bring herself to take the necessary steps; they appear an extreme reaction and much too severe.

Treatment of Chronic Abuse

Because treatment of the chronically abusive relationship is so difficult, it also requires more time and more individualized work than other forms of battering. First, it is important to work alone with the batterer for an extended period of time. After the relationship has been established and depth work has been undertaken, one

can then begin to work with the couple. It is also crucial that the victim receive help for herself. If possible, the victim should be seeing her own therapist or should see the counselor individually before the couple work can begin. Later in this paper, I address the specific techniques needed in dealing with the batterer, the victim, and the couple.

Emotional Abuse

The third form of lesbian battering is the emotionally destructive relationship. This is one that is much harder to define than the other two and certainly as difficult as the chronic abuse to treat. Because this form leaves no physical scars and is harder to document, it is also harder to define. Emotional abuse is that form of battering which is psychological and verbal. It humiliates and degrades the victim and makes the victim feel inferior. It may involve such behavior as blaming the victim for problems, threatening with violence, manipulating with lies and emotions, insulting, criticizing, harassing the victim with attacks of jealousy, and denying that the victim is being abused. Quite often the victims and perpetrators have characteristics similar to those couples in the chronically abusive relationship. The only difference is that the weapon is words rather than fists.

Clinical Example

Jane and Marge had been lovers for four years. Marge was married at the time they became involved and defined herself as bisexual. Jane was a radical lesbian separatist, while Marge was more spiritual in orientation. When Marge left her husband, Jane assumed that they would now become committed monogamous lovers. Marge wanted to remain involved with Jane, but also wanted to keep seeing men as well. Jane could not accept Marge's bisexuality and sought help in trying to find a resolution to their dilemma. Although there was no violence, Jane would keep Marge alone, locked in her apartment for hours, trying to discuss the problem. She felt that Marge was disturbed for not seeing how she had been oppressed by men and indicated that she felt that there was something severely wrong with Marge for not wanting a monogamous

relationship with her. She called Marge names, insisting that she read books on the subject, humiliated her in lesbian circles for her "male orientation," and threatened to end the relationship if Marge did not come around.

She used political rhetoric to control and overpower her lover. She relied on intellectualizations as a means of harassment when threats did not work. For the years prior to the crisis, the same behavior had been problematic around issues on which the couple had differing opinions. Marge knew that often she was being humiliated and manipulated, although Jane refused to acknowledge that she was engaging in such behavior. Their relationship had taken on the pattern of Jane having an idea in her mind and then talking and browbeating Marge into seeing it her way. Eventually, Marge would give in rather than continue the fight. On the issue of non-monogamy, Jane had finally reached her limit and would no longer acquiesce. As a result, the emotional abuse reached catastrophic proportions for the relationship.

Treatment of Emotional Abuse

Treatment of the emotionally abusive relationship can follow the model discussed above in chronic abuse. There still must be individual treatment, as well as couple work. The difference is that the work will not be as long and as potentially explosive. Because the couple is enmeshed in pain, work is done on separating them and helping them to individuate from the other.

TREATMENT OF THE LESBIAN BATTERER, VICTIM, AND COUPLE

Treating the Batterer

Because the batterer has such a poor self-image, it is imperative that the therapist undertake a long-term and depth counseling relationship with her. During the initial sessions, work can focus on understanding family history and background on previous relationship(s) and interpersonal interactions. It is here that the therapist helps the client to develop trust and begins to help her unearth patterns and themes that are repeating themselves in this currently abu-

sive relationship. Understanding the history and having the client realize the source of her poor self-image can be helpful at a later time in making connections to the feelings she is experiencing as she interacts with her lover.

It is crucial that trust be developed because it is inevitable that the batterer will want to run from treatment when some of her abusive patterns are confronted later. It becomes a large undertaking to keep the batterer in treatment. Because she feels so badly about herself, she has difficulty taking responsibility for her behavior, seeing that it reinforces the bad person image that she already had of herself. Confronting the batterer about her abusive behavior at the beginning of the therapeutic relationship can be self-sabotage on the part of the therapist. Early discussion concerning the abuse is best done when the client brings it up and certainly in a gentle manner at first. She must see the therapist as an ally, and not yet another person who thinks badly of her.

After the initial stage of history, rapport, and trust building, it is useful to begin to work with the batterer to realize when she is becoming angry: helping her become conscious of her bodily reactions to tension. Often these women do not know that anger is building, and they jump directly from stimulus to response with no intermediary steps. Work can be done on realizing, for example, that her palms are sweaty or that there is a knot in her stomach when she is becoming angry. Once she can identify the anger, the next step is helping the batterer find ways of avoiding the violence that would otherwise ensue. "Time-out" is a simple tactic that has worked in some of these situations. The goal of the therapist is to motivate the client in order to help the client learn to move away from a potentially volatile situation and to vent her anger in more socially acceptable ways.

It is also during this middle stage of therapy that work occurs with the batterer on her communication patterns: the therapist helps her look at how she conveys her needs, emotions, and desires. Most of these women are unable to speak and ask directly for what they want; instead, they become angry because their partners cannot intuit their wishes. Simple role model exercises are useful in teaching clients how to ask clearly for what they need. This is actually rather difficult to do because many of the batterers have lost touch with

12-7

their wishes, having learned early on that their needs are unimportant in their family of origin. It is a matter of role modeling and confronting long-entrenched belief systems about how the batterer communicates.

During the middle stage, the therapist may also choose to confront the client about her abusive behavior by helping her see the choices and consequences of her behavior. Often the batterer thinks that she has no alternative but to lash out physically—that is often what she saw as a child. Even though she knows that this kind of treatment hurt her when she was young, she now knows no other way to vent her frustration. She must be taught to put herself in the other person's position and understand the recipient's feelings and reactions.

In helping her see the choices, work can be effectuated on the negative repercussions for her behavior. She might be reminded that what she is doing is illegal and that she could be incarcerated for the behavior, or that she could lose her partner if the violence continues. Because she sees the violence as an acceptable behavior, it is hard for her to realize that violence is not to be condoned. In this, the therapist becomes an agent of social control, imposing limits where there may not have been any. Sometimes this is the point at which the client may choose to run away. It becomes imperative for the therapist to work through the negative reaction that is inevitable; otherwise, it is here that the client terminates treatment.

Because it is difficult to keep a batterer in treatment, it is also crucial that she see the therapist as a source of support and caring. In many ways, this becomes the transference issue. The therapist must work through the client's feelings in such a way that although the therapist is unaccepting of the battering, the client is otherwise liked and cared for. In fact, during the middle stage, the therapist becomes—in the mind of the client—that rejecting parent who abused and victimized the client as a child. It is here that the therapist is called upon to use all her expertise in holding onto the client, hoping to work through the feelings of anger and victimization that the client will feel upon being confronted with the consequences of her behavior. Somehow the therapist must convey support and caring, while still setting limits and helping the client see her own responsibility.

During the middle stage of treatment, the therapist also undertakes some course of action directed toward assertiveness building, helping the client understand the difference between this and her own aggressiveness. The therapist might act as a role model for such behavior or may also help the client find friends or role models who may help her find new adaptive patterns. In addition, it is at this stage that use and abuse of alcohol or drugs can be dealt with. Sometimes a contractual agreement has worked in dealing with this issue or an important referral to Alcoholics Anonymous or other treatment programs.

During the entire relationship with the batterer, the issue is how to maintain a balance—one that will combine the limit setting and confronting of behaviors with the support and encouragement to change these behaviors. Meanwhile, the counselor is helping the client understand how she became who she is and how she can change the maladaptive patterns that are no longer working. It is no easy undertaking.

When the therapist and client feel that enough work has been done on the initial and middle stages of treatment, it is time to either begin work with the victim or bring her into the couple's part of the work.

Treating the Victim

While the batterer is in treatment for her problems, it is useful for the victim to be looking into her own patterns as well. It is best if this is done with another therapist entirely, but sometimes financial constraints prohibit this. Ideally, the batterer would be working with one therapist, the victim with another, and the couple working with yet a third. However, this is a fairly unusual situation, and some modifications might have to be made. Sometimes the batterer may be seen alone, then the victim alone, and then the couple together, all by the same therapist, if all other options are not possible.

Work with the victim tends to focus on her own need to stay with, and put up with, the violent behavior. Generally, victims need to understand their own history and background and how that enables them to collude with the battering. None of the women like

being abused; all of them want it to stop, but most do not know how to do so. They see calling in help as too extreme and hope to bring about the change through loving and caring for the partner. They must understand that they do not deserve the abuse, that nothing will stop it until there are negative consequences for the abusive behavior, and that they will have to set limits in dealing with the abuser.

The woman must realize that her own safety is of primary importance, and that she must be assertive, say no, and call police and her community support network to help her. If necessary, the woman may have to leave the batterer to protect herself. The victims tend to feel guilty and blame themselves for the problem. Work can focus on placing the blame where it belongs: on the abusers. The therapist may be helpful by pointing out to the victim that her job is to take care of herself first. Support can be provided for the victims to make these changes, and the therapist may need to walk her through the steps of setting the necessary limits with the abuser.

Treating the Couple

The final stage of treatment involves bringing the two together for couple counseling. This may be accomplished while the two are in therapy with other therapists, or if the therapist is seeing them alone, after all the initial and middle stages of work have been completed. It is in this final stage that the two put together what they have learned individually. Mainly work focuses on enhancing the communication patterns and helping the two reflect and hear what the other is saying. Simple communication exercises may be effective at this stage of the process. In addition, work is constructed to help teach the batterer to compromise and to understand the victim's perspective. The therapist assists the two in thinking through ways in which neither is the victor or the victim, but instead coming up with agreements that would be acceptable to each.

Work at this stage also involves implementing the "time-out" tactic and helping the victim leave the batterer alone so that she may deal with her own anger, apart from her victim.

It is also helpful to implement a full community treatment approach at this stage. The therapist may invite close friends and fam-

ily into the therapy sessions as is done in the Bowenian model of family therapy (Bowen, 1978). By doing this, the batterer becomes fully aware that her network of friends sees her behavior as a problem and wants to help. It also helps the victim to feel that she is not alone in dealing with the problem, giving her a place to turn. The isolation is broken. Furthermore, the friends and family can aid in the setting of limits and add to the social constraints of the batterer's acting out behavior. The group can brainstorm how to handle the violent behavior *when* it occurs rather than *after* the fact. By so doing, the community of friends and family become part of the treatment, helping the victim and the abuser find new ways of interacting. It is an unusual approach, but then this is an unusual and difficult problem to treat.

The role of the therapist of the battering couple is one in which she is forced to confront the reality of the dynamic between the two, while still maintaining support in an equal manner. It is a difficult balance to reach. Often, the counselor experiences countertransference, identifying with the victim, which can cause alienation of the batterer. It is a fine line to walk, and any error can send the abuser running from treatment and, perhaps, leaving the relationship. This would, indeed, be an unfortunate circumstance, because it leaves the batterer out in the community, still a potential abuser in yet another relationship.

CONCLUSION

Treatment of the battering lesbian couple is a new and difficult undertaking. It involves partializing the problem and dealing with each type of abuse in rather diverse manners. The work is realized individually; with the couple; and in mobilizing an entire community to respond. Although this field is somewhat new, some of the accepted forms of couples counseling are quite relevant with this client group. However, because the problem is also caused by a homophobic society and dynamics specific to lesbian dyads, it behooves the therapist to employ creative and unusual treatment approaches as well. As in any form of treatment, the therapist is forced to confront her own countertransference issues. With lesbian batterers, if she is a heterosexual therapist, she will have to deal

916-7

with her own feelings about lesbianism. If she is a lesbian therapist, she will have to deal with her own feelings of identification with one or the other partner. She might also have to deal with her own anger at the emergence of the problem. It is certainly helpful for therapists to have support when working with such a situation. Working with the lesbian battering couple is a particularly hard problem with which to deal. We are each overcoming a lifetime of conditioning and cultural support for violence. In addition, we are working within a homophobic environment. This leaves the therapist with many of her own issues to think about. Group support or individual consultations might be a healthy way to understand one's own reactions to this phenomenon.

Lesbian battering is currently a hotly debated and deliberated social issue. Workshops are being planned in major cities; battering projects are being established around the country; and as of now, therapists are beginning to recognize treatment approaches that will work. This paper has been an attempt at assisting therapists in thinking about and developing strategies for dealing with the complexity of the problem.

REFERENCES

- Benowitz, M. (1986). How homophobia affects lesbians' response to violence in lesbian relationships. In K. Lobel (Ed.), *Naming the violence: Speaking out about lesbian battering*. Seattle, WA: Seal Press.
- Bowen, M. (1978). *Family therapy in clinical practice*. New York: Jason Aronson.
- Brand, P., & Kidd, A. (1986). Frequency of physical aggression in heterosexual and female homosexual dyads. *Psychological Reports*, 59, 1307-13.
- Brown, D. (nd). *Myths and reality of lesbian battering*. Unpublished manuscript.
- Burch, B. (1986). Psychotherapy and the dynamics of merger in lesbian couples. In C. Cohen & T. Stein (Eds.), *Contemporary perspectives on psychodynamic psychotherapy with gay men and lesbians* (pp. 57-70). New York: Plenum Press.
- Chesler, P. (1972). *Women and madness*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday and Company.
- Gelles, R. (1983). The exchange/social control theory. In D. Finkelhor, R. Gelles, G. Hotaling, & M. Straus (Eds.), *Dark side of families: Current family violence research* (pp. 151-52). Beverly Hills: Sage Publications.
- Grossholtz, J. (nd). *A draft statement on lesbian battering for the NCADV*. Unpublished manuscript.

- Hart, B. (1986). Lesbian battering: An examination. In K. Lobel (Ed.), *Naming the violence: Speaking out about lesbian battering*. Seattle, WA: Seal Press.
- Hitchhink, A. (1984, October). Battered lesbians. *Coming Up!*, 11-13.
- Hirshorn, H. (1984, June). The tip of the iceberg: Lesbian battering. *Womans*, 5.
- Lobel, K. (Ed.) (1986). *Naming the violence: Speaking out about lesbian battering*. Seattle, WA: Seal Press.
- Martin, D. (1985). Homophobia, sex roles and domestic violence. *Western Center On Domestic Violence Review*, 10, 1-16.
- National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (1983). Fact sheet. Unpublished manuscript.
- Shadle, V. (1986, August 14-20). Women hurting women. *The Ithaca Times*, 6.
- Walker, L. (1979). *The battered woman*. New York: Harper & Row Publishers.

for faculty professionals with journal subscription recommendation
authority for their institutional library

If you have read a reprint or photocopy of this article, would you like to make sure that your library also subscribes to this journal? If you have the authority to recommend subscriptions to your library, we will send you a free sample copy for review with your librarian. Just fill out the form below and make sure that you type or write out clearly both the name of the journal and your own name and address.



() Yes, please send me a complimentary sample copy of this journal:

(please write in complete journal title here do not leave blank)

I will show this journal to our institutional or agency library for a possible subscription.

The name of my institutional/agency library is _____

NAME: _____

INSTITUTION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Return to: Sample Copy Department, The Haworth Press, Inc.,
12 West 32 Street, New York, NY 10001

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

AND

THE LAW

A PRACTICAL GUIDE
FOR SURVIVORS

The Young Lawyers Division of The
North Carolina Bar Association
Invite and Endorse The Reproduction
And Distribution of This
Pamphlet by Any Person Or Organization.
Please Do So Freely.

Distribution of this
publication was funded in
part by a grant from IOLTA.

Published By
The Young Lawyers Division
Domestic Violence Committee
of the
North Carolina Bar Association
Copyright 1995

APPENDIX 1

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
What is Domestic Violence Under the Law?	1
1. Physical Abuse Against You	1
2. Emotional Abuse	2
3. Child Abuse	2
How Does the Law Protect Against Domestic Violence?	2
1. Criminal Charges	2
2. Child Abuse Complaint	2
3. Civil Relief	2
How Can A Victim of Domestic Violence Get Help? ...	3
1. Call the Police	3
2. Pursue Your Criminal and Civil Remedies	5
How Does A Victim of Domestic Violence Pursue Criminal Remedies?	6
1. Report the Crime as Soon as Possible	6
2. Be Prepared to Tell What Happened	6
3. Know the Crimes Charges	7
* Rape and Sexual Offense	7
* Assault	7
* Domestic Criminal Trespass	7
* Communicating Threats	8
* Stalking	8
* Harassing Phone Calls	8

4. Be Prepared for the Criminal Trial	9
5. Tips and Pointers	10
What is the Difference Between Civil and Criminal Remedies?	11
How Do You Pursue Your Civil Remedies	11
1. Know What Kind of Relief is Available	11
2. Consider Your Children's Safety	12
3. Go to Court for Immediate Protection and Relief	12
4. Be Prepared for the 10-Day Hearing	13
5. Extend Your Court Order After One Year	15
6. Abide by the Order.....	15
7. Get the Order Enforced if the Abuser Violates the Order.....	15
Tips and Pointers	16
1. File Criminal and Civil Charges Simultaneously	16
2. Stay with Relatives or at a Shelter.....	16
3. Go to the Hospital if You're Injured	16
4. Seek Counseling	17
5. Be Organized in Court	17
6. Your Word is Good Evidence	17
7. Provide for Your Financial Security	18
8. Call a Lawyer for Help with the System	18
Resources	18

INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence may be physical or emotional: slapping, punching, beating, kicking, threats of harm and verbal abuse are all forms of domestic violence. Violent behavior toward others is wrong no matter who does it. Family members are not excused. If you are in an abusive situation and don't do something to stop it, you may be harming your family. There is evidence that children raised in abusive homes are likely to become abusers or victims of abuse in later life.

Q: WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNDER THE LAW?

1. Physical Abuse Against You.

The legal definition of domestic violence includes beating, using a weapon against you (like a knife, gun or a hammer), slapping, hitting, pushing, shoving, pulling your hair, throwing you (on the floor, downstairs, etc.) and throwing something at or near you in order to scare you.

Some judges, but not all, will view other physical abuse as domestic violence, such as:

- forced sexual relations;
- destruction of your possessions so that you believe you might get physically hurt, like ripping your clothes or destroying your personal items; and
- behavior that makes it clear that if you get up from a chair or leave a room, you will be hurt physically.

2. Emotional Abuse

Domestic violence also includes threats of violence; statements like "I will hit you", "If you leave, I will hurt you," or "If you tell anyone, I will kill you." Domestic violence also includes placing party in fear of imminent serious bodily harm by threat of force. Domestic violence does not include threats to take custody of the children or to leave the home.

3. Child Abuse

The law provides that domestic violence also includes violence against your children, such as excessive spanking. Some judges, but not all, will include sexual abuse of children, such as fondling or rape as domestic violence. The abused children need not be the children of the abuser in order for you to file a child abuse complaint.

Q: HOW DOES THE LAW PROTECT AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

1. You can bring CRIMINAL CHARGES if:
 - You have suffered violence in an abusive relationship, regardless of whether you are married to or even living with the abuser.
2. You can and should file a CHILDABUSE COMPLAINT if:
 - You are a person suspecting child abuse, regardless of your relationship to either the abuser or the child.
3. You can file for CIVIL RELIEF in the civil courts if you are:

- The spouse of the abuser;
- The former spouse of the abuser;
- Living with the abuser as if married (i.e., heterosexual relationships; boyfriend and girlfriend); or
- Former live-in girlfriend or boyfriend of the abuser.

Q: HOW CAN A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GET HELP?



1. Call The Police

If you are a victim of domestic violence, you can call the police or county sheriff for help. The law requires the police to provide you with:

- **ADVICE**

Law enforcement officers are trained to know and be able to tell you where the closest temporary shelters for domestic violence victims are located. If you are hurt, in need of food, clothing or counseling, the police can direct you to the appropriate community resource.

- **TRANSPORTATION**

Law enforcement officers can and should take you where you need to go to get help, whether it be the home of a friend or family member, shelter or hospital. The police can also take you to the magistrate's office if you want to file a criminal complaint. In all cases of domestic violence, leave the house and take your children and important things with you, if you can safely.

- **EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**

Law enforcement officers are authorized by law to do whatever is *reasonable* to protect you from harm. The police can arrest the abuser if they have good reason to believe that the abuser has hurt you. They can also arrest the abuser if they reasonably believe the abuser has violated a court order by hurting you or coming to your house.



When you call the police . . .

If you make multiple calls to the police within a 48-hour period and they *reasonably* believe you do not need help, they do not have to respond to your calls.

- **BE READY TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM HARM FOR AT LEAST A SHORT WHILE.**

The police are only required to respond to your call *as soon as practicable*.

- **BE COLLECTING EVIDENCE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN BEATEN OR THREATENED.**

When the police arrive, give them torn or bloody clothing, pictures or any other evidence of an attack (if you have any). Be sure to give the police names and phone numbers of all witnesses to your attack, if there are any. If there is a court order that the abuser has violated, give the police a copy of it so they can arrest the abuser for violating the order. You should also give the police a copy of separation or divorce papers, if there are any.

- **BE SURE TO ASK THE POLICE TO MAKE A REPORT OF THE INCIDENT.**

Ask the police to take pictures of your injuries and to conduct an investigation. You should ask for the police officer's name and badge number so that they can be a witness for you in any civil or criminal proceeding you may bring against your abuser. Write this information down so you can report it to the district attorney if you sign a criminal complaint.

- **BE PREPARED TO TAKE YOUR ABUSER TO COURT.**

If you do not press criminal charges against your abuser, the police may (although they shouldn't) become less likely to help you in the future and your abuser may believe that he or she can get away with hurting you.

2. **Pursue Your Criminal and Civil Remedies**

To get started, you can contact:



- **MAGISTRATE.** If the police officer does not pursue criminal charges against your abuser, see the local magistrate yourself and sign a criminal complaint.
- **CLERK OF COURT.** Go to your local clerk of court's office to file a request for a civil complaint and motion for a domestic violence protective order. A local domestic violence assistance agency should be able to assist you in preparing these forms.

- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CENTER AND/OR ATTORNEY. Contact an attorney or your local domestic violence assistance organization. The police can direct you to these organizations. (See listing at end of this book)

Q: HOW DOES A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PURSUE CRIMINAL REMEDIES?

As a victim of domestic violence, you can bring criminal charges, which will be prosecuted by the State of North Carolina through the local district attorney's office. The purpose is to punish your abuser for violating the law, as opposed to providing you with civil relief. (The next section, beginning on page 11, discusses your civil remedies).

To start a criminal proceeding, you should . . .

1. Report the Crime As Soon As Possible

If you can get to a telephone, call the police. The police must respond to your call. If the police witness the assault, they are required by law to make an arrest on the spot. Of course, you should never remain in a place of danger in order to allow the police to witness the violence.

2. Be Prepared to Tell What Happened

If the police do not witness the assault, you may have to go to the magistrate's office to press charges. You will need to describe to the magistrate what happened to you and take along with you any witnesses to the domestic violence and any evidence of injury or abuse, including pictures, torn or blood-stained clothes and medical reports. Upon hearing your sworn testimony, the magistrate should issue a criminal summons or a warrant, even if you do not have physical evidence of abuse.

3. Know the Crimes Charged

● Rape and Sexual Offense

A person is guilty of raping you if they engage in vaginal intercourse with you by force and against your will. If the abuser uses or displays a dangerous weapon, inflicts serious personal injury on you, or is aided in the crime by one or more other persons, the crime is first degree rape and the abuser may be sentenced to life imprisonment.

A person is guilty of a sexual offense against you if they engage in a sexual act with you (other than vaginal intercourse) by force and against your will.

● Assault

Misdemeanor assault is an act or an attempt, with force and violence, to do immediate physical injury to you and to put you in fear of immediate bodily harm. The law provides stiffer penalties for misdemeanor assault if the person assaulted was a child under 12 or if a male over 18 assaults a female.

A person who assaults you with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill and/or inflict serious injury on you has committed a felony assault, which is more serious than a misdemeanor.

● Domestic Criminal Trespass

Domestic criminal trespass prevents a spouse or person with whom you have lived as if married from coming to your residence after you have separated and begun living apart. A former partner is guilty of domestic criminal trespass if he or she comes to your

residence after your separation and after you have asked him or her not to come to your residence, or if he or she refuses your request to leave your residence at a time after your separation. It is important to understand that domestic criminal trespass can happen only after you and your former partner have begun living at separate residences.

- Communicating Threats

A person is guilty of communicating threats against you if, without lawful authority, he or she threatens to physically injure you or damage your property, either orally or in writing, and the threat is made in such a way that it would cause a reasonable person to believe that it is likely to be carried out (and you actually believe that the threat will be carried out).

- Stalking

The offense of stalking occurs when a person willfully and continually follows you or is in your presence without legal purpose and with the intent to cause emotional distress to you by placing you in reasonable fear of death or bodily injury (after you have warned or requested them to stop). To be illegal, the stalking must occur over a period of time, showing a pattern of conduct and continued purpose.

- Harassing Phone Calls

Using profane, indecent or threatening language against you over the telephone or on your answering machine is illegal. This includes annoying or harassing you by making false statements over the telephone or by repeated calling.

4. Be prepared for the Criminal Trial

- The Court Date

You need to keep track of the date which is set for trial, and be sure to go to court at the right time that day ready to testify about the details of the domestic violence against you.

- The District Attorney is Your Attorney

You do not need to hire an attorney since the district attorney represents your interests. You should contact the district attorney's office before the trial date to discuss the case and the evidence which you will be able to present. If there are any witnesses to the domestic violence against you, you should let the district attorney know as soon as possible and request that they be subpoenaed to appear at the trial. You should give the district attorney the names and badge numbers of police who arrested the abuser or who responded to your call.

- Possible Continuances

Criminal cases are routinely continued for several weeks or even months in order to allow the abuser (defendant) to seek counseling, to hire an attorney or to subpoena witnesses. It is important to keep track of the date on which the case is scheduled to return and, once again, to go to court at the appropriate time that day.

- The Punishment

If the defendant is found guilty, the punishment will depend on the circumstances of the case. The decision is up to the judge, but the judge will consider the district attorney's recommendation. If the crime is serious enough, the abuser could be sentenced to a long prison term, even up to life imprisonment. In the typical domestic violence case, however, the abuser will be found guilty of a misdemeanor and will receive a suspended sentence, a fine and/or probation. Depending on the circumstances of the case, you may want to ask the court to order the abuser to undergo substance abuse counseling and/or to stay away from you.



5. Follow These Tips and Pointers . . .

- Do not press criminal charges if you are not going to follow through. Remember that if you drop the charges, the court and police are less likely to believe you the next time. If you do not appear on the day scheduled for trial, your case may be dismissed. Also, you may be assessed with court costs.
- Be present and ready to have all witnesses available on short notice. Cooperate with the district attorney and tell him or her everything you can remember about the domestic violence against you.
- If the abuser attacks you again (after he or she has been found guilty), take out another warrant for their arrest and report the attack to his or her probation officer.

Q: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CIVIL & CRIMINAL REMEDIES?

The purpose of a criminal action is to punish the abuser. The purpose of a civil action is to get certain types of relief for you from the domestic violence which has and may again be inflicted against you. Civil cases are not a part of an abusers criminal record. You do not need to decide between civil and criminal remedies -- you may pursue both remedies for the same incident of domestic violence.

Q: HOW DO YOU PURSUE YOUR CIVIL REMEDIES?

1. Know What Kind of Relief is Available

You can request and may be able to get the court to order:



- the abuser not assault, threaten, harass or contact you.
- possession of the residence so that the abuser cannot return there and/or an order that he or she leave the residence.
- suitable housing other than the former residence.
- law enforcement assistance in evicting the abuser from the residence and/or in returning you to it.
- temporary custody of the minor children. (You generally need to prove that the children are in danger of violence).
- temporary child support.

- temporary payments for your support if you and the abuser are married (most judges will not award this immediately unless you are handicapped or unless other very special and compelling circumstances exist).
- possession of a vehicle.
- possession of your furniture and other household goods.
- possession of certain other items of personal property (for example, the tools you use for your work or your daughter's wheelchair).
- your attorney's fees for the civil case paid for by the abuser.

2. Consider Your Children's Safety

If you leave the residence, *take your children with you*. Do not leave them with the abuser. You may have difficulty or delays in getting custody of the children if they are left with the abuser. If you have left the house and can come back to get the children safely, do so.

3. Go to Court for Immediate Protection and Relief

- Prepare the Forms

The Clerk of Court should be able to give you the appropriate forms to get started. Ask for a "Complaint and Motion for Domestic Violence Protective Order" and a "Civil Summons." In describing the domestic violence against you in the complaint, start with the most recent episode of violence first; then go back in

time with each violent episode. Add additional sheets if necessary. If the violence has caused any injuries such as bruises, knots or wounds, include that information in the appropriate place on the complaint (usually Number 4 on the complaint). Also, be prepared to tell the judge about your injuries (and your children's injuries). If the abuser is violent while using alcohol and illegal drugs, tell the judge in the complaint and remind him or her of it in court. **It is very important to show the judge on paper why you are afraid now.** The judge will read your complaint and may ask you more questions in the courtroom. In the complaint, remember to ask for all the kinds of relief you want.

● Have an Ex Parte Hearing

If you are in serious, immediate danger, you should ask the judge to issue a temporary or ex parte order without contacting your abuser. The order protects you while the summons and complaint are being served by the sheriff on the abuser and before the abuser has the chance to come before the judge. The order is only good for ten (10) days and the ex parte hearing usually takes place within 24 hours of filing the complaint.

4. Be Prepared for the 10-Day Hearing

The full hearing with you, your witness, the abuser and the judge is held ten days after the summons is issued and the complaint is filed, assuming the abuser has been served with your complaint by then. The judge will be deciding what type of relief he or she should order for the next year. It may be the same as the relief you got in the temporary order or it may be different. Be sure you bring

with you to the courtroom any witnesses to the domestic violence against you and all evidence of the violence, such as pictures, medical reports and clothing. Be prepared to describe to the judge in detail what the abuser has done to you and why you are still afraid of him or her now.

If the papers are not served on the abuser by the date of the 10-day hearing, the judge may issue you a (or another) temporary, ex parte order and the judge will then give you another court date.

- Ask the Judge for Relief

Be certain that you tell the judge exactly what relief you want. Make a list of all the kinds of relief you want and read it to the judge. If your circumstances have changed or if you have changed your mind since you filed the complaint, you can change the type of relief you ask for.

The judge can (although he or she may not) order that you be provided with any of the relief described above on pages 11-12 or some other form of relief. The judge can also order that the abuser not assault or attempt to assault you, not harass or intimidate you, not go to your work or residence and/or not follow you around.

- Keep Your Court Order

Once you obtain an order, keep it with you. The local law enforcement authorities must keep copies of these orders on file, but you should keep a copy in your purse or other safe place near you so that you can show the police or magistrate that you have a domestic violence order should the abuser violate it.

5. Extend Your Court Order After One Year

Your order for civil relief will only last for one (1) year. You can get the order extended beyond one year if the abuser continues to be a threat to your physical safety. Forms are available at the clerk of court's office for extending the order, but you may wish to contact an attorney to help you. Consult your local bar association or the clerk of court to determine what attorneys, including low-cost or volunteer attorneys, are available in your area to help you get an extension of the order.

6. Abide by the Order

If the judge has ordered the abuser not to contact you, try to refrain from any telephone or personal contact with the abuser. Try to consistently abide by the order by keeping the abuser away from you and do not let the abuser talk you into disregarding the order.

If you have let the abuser into your home (even if you have started living together again), you can reapply for relief if further domestic violence occurs, but the abuser may be less likely to take a second court order seriously.

7. Get the Order Enforced if the Abuser Violates the Order

Do not ignore the violation. You can and should file a "motion for entry of contempt" as soon as possible after the abuser has violated the order. Your safety may depend on you showing the abuser that you intend to enforce your legal rights. You can contact an attorney to file a motion for entry of contempt or you can file a motion yourself. The

forms are available at the clerk of court's office. Again, you must write specifically what the abuser did that was in violation of the order and you and the abuser must appear before a judge. The judge may tell the abuser that if he or she violates the order, they will be jailed; or the judge may find that the order has already been violated and sentence the abuser to jail or order that he or she pay a fine. Be aware that a violation of a court order is also a criminal offense and that you can contact the magistrate's office and have the abuser arrested immediately. The police should arrest the abuser if you show them you have a court order and they reasonably believe that the abuser has violated it.

WHEN YOU SEEK CIVIL RELIEF OR PRESS CRIMINAL CHARGES, FOLLOW THESE TIPS AND POINTERS . . .

1. File Criminal and Civil Charges Simultaneously

You can press criminal charges and file a civil complaint at the same time based on the same incident.

2. Stay with Relatives or at a Shelter

When you leave your home to get away from the abuser, stay with relatives, friends of the same sex or stay at a shelter. Do not stay with a single, opposite sex friend.

3. Go to the Hospital If You're Injured

Seek medical treatment if you are physically injured. The hospital or doctor's office should make records of your injuries. Get all medical documents and keep them with you so they can be used in court later. Medical reports will be important evidence at either a civil or criminal trial.



4. Seek Counseling

You may find it helpful to talk with someone outside of your circle of family and friends. Seek counseling from volunteers at a shelter or other domestic violence assistance program and get any documents or reports from your visit for use in court later. Counseling may be important to your recovery from the domestic violence against you, and may help you sort out your feelings.

5. Be Organized In Court

Know what you want to say to the judge. Most judges are busy; thus, you should tell him or her the most recent and most violent episodes first. Be aware that your abuser can ask you questions in court. Keep calm, if you can. Remember, your sworn testimony may be all the evidence you need to get civil relief or to get the abuser convicted.

6. Your Word is Good Evidence

Your testimony may be all the evidence you need. You do not have to have proof of injuries or witnesses to the violence against you, but they are helpful. Bring photographs of your bruises or friends who saw the violence or the black eye if you can. If you have been threatened with violence, tell the judge why you were afraid of the threat. Do not get upset if the abuser contradicts what you say. Many judges have seen many cases of domestic violence and will expect contradictions in the testimony. If the judge believes you are truthful, he or she should give you some form of domestic violence relief.

7. **Provide for Your Financial Security**



After you are in a safe place, get money out of bank accounts to which your abuser has access. Collect important personal belongings after you leave the house, if you can safely. Remember, the police can and should escort you back to your home to get your belongings. Also, you can ask the judge for an order allowing you to get the household goods and other personal things you need.

8. **Call a Lawyer for Help with the System**

The Clerk of Court and the local bar association can help you locate attorneys in your area who can help you file a civil complaint, get a temporary order and advise you on how to press criminal charges. Remember, you do not have to go through the legal system by yourself if you do not want to.

RESOURCES

Look in the blue pages of the phone book (under "North Carolina State Government" "Judicial Branch") to locate the Magistrate and Clerk of Court for your county. Look in the inside cover of the phone book for a "Battered Women's Assistance" number. More resources are listed on the following pages.

**Domestic Violence Programs Funded by the N.C.
Council for Women**

ALAMANCE COUNTY

Family Abuse Services of Alamance
County, Inc.
PO Box 2192
Burlington, NC 27216
Office: (910) 226-5982
Crisis: (910) 227-6220
Jenna Johnson

BEAUFORT COUNTY

Options to DV/SA Inc.
PO Box 1387
Washington, NC 27889
Office (919) 946-3219
Crisis: 1-800-682-0767
Lori Cortright

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

Hope Harbor Home Inc.
PO Box 230
Supply, NC 28462
Office (910) 754-5726
Crisis: (910) 754-5856
Cathy Swaim

BUNCOMBE COUNTY

Helpmate Inc.
34 Wall St., Suite 702
Asheville, NC 28801
Office: (704) 254-2968
Crisis: (704) 254-0516
Deborah Vingle

BURKE COUNTY

Options Inc.
PO Box 2512
Morganton, NC 28680
Office: (704) 438-9444
Debbie Wilson

CABARRUS COUNTY

Cabarrus Victim's Assistance
Network
PO Box 1749
Concord, NC 28026
Office: (704) 788-1108
Crisis: (704) 788-2826
Mary Margaret Flynn

CALDWELL COUNTY

Shelter Home of Caldwell Co., Inc.
PO Box 426
Lenoir, NC 28645
Office: (704) 758-0888
Mildred Tatum

CARTERET COUNTY

Carteret County Domestic Violence
Program
PO Box 2279
Morehead City, NC 28557
Office: (919) 728-3788
Crisis: (919) 247-3023

CASWELL COUNTY

Caswell Family Violence Prevention
Program
PO Box 639
Yanceyville, NC 27379
Office: (910) 694-5655
Crisis: 1-800-359-5655
Mae Crumpton

CATAWBA COUNTY

Family Guidance Center
17 Hwy. 64-70, S.E.
Hickory, NC 28602
Office: (704) 322-1400
Ann Peele

CHATHAM COUNTY

Family Violence & Rape Crisis
Services Inc.
PO Box 1105
Pittsboro, NC 27312
Office: (919) 542-5445
Crisis: (919) 929-0479
Jo Sanders

CHEROKEE COUNTY

REACH Inc.
PO Box 977
Murphy, NC 28906
Office: (704) 837-8064
Robin Mauney

CLEVELAND COUNTY

Cleveland County Abuse Prevention
Council
PO Box 2895
Shelby, NC 28151-2895
Office: (704) 487-9325
Crisis: (704) 481-0043
Patty Neal Dorian

CRAVEN COUNTY

Coastal Women's Shelter Inc.
PO Box 13081
New Bern, NC 28561
Office: (919) 638-4509
Crisis: (919) 638-5995
Suzanne McNulty

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

CARE
(Cumberland County Dept of Social
Services)
1103 Hay St.
Fayetteville, NC 28305
Office: (910) 323-4187
Bill Duke

DARE COUNTY

Outer Banks Hotline Inc.
PO Box 1417
Manteo, NC 27954
Office: (919) 473-5121
Crisis: (919) 473-3366
Lynn Bryant
Serves Hatteras Island
(919) 995-5104
Hatteras Island call collect

DAVIDSON COUNTY

Davidson County Domestic Violence
Services
PO Box 1231
Lexington, NC 27293
Office: (704) 243-1934
Crisis: (704) 243-1628
Anna Hayes

DUPLIN COUNTY

Sarah's Refuge Inc.
PO Box 368
Warsaw, NC 28398
Office: (910) 293-3206
Crisis: (910) 293-3206
Perrie Byrd

DURHAM COUNTY

Orange/Durham Coalition for
Battered Women Inc.
PO Box 688
Durham, NC 27702
Office: (919) 688-4015
Crisis: (919) 683-8628; 929-0479;
732-2796
Susan A. Rogers

EDGEcombe/NASH COUNTY

My Sister's House
PO Box 1702
Rocky Mount, NC 27802
Office: (919) 977-2892
Crisis: (919) 446-2400
Teresa McKeon

FORSYTH COUNTY

Family Services Inc.
610 Coliseum Dr.
Winston-Salem, NC 27106-5393
Office: (910) 722-8173
Crisis: (910) 723-8125
Michael Turner

GASTON COUNTY

Gaston County Department of Social
Services
Battered Spouse Program
PO Box 10
Gastonia, NC 28053
Office: (704) 866-3613
Crisis: (704) 866-3300 or 865-2323
Barbara Mincey

GUILFORD COUNTY

Family and Children's Services/
Turning Point
301 E. Washington St.
Greensboro, NC 27401-2911
Office: (910) 333-6910
Crisis: (910) 274-7316
Jane Cauthen

(GUILFORD)

Family Services of High Point Inc.
1401 Long Street
High Point, NC 27262-2541
Office: (910) 889-6161
Crisis: (910) 841-8255
Trish Foutch

HALIFAX COUNTY

Hannah's Place
PO Box 1392
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870
Office: (919) 537-2882
Crisis: (919) 537-2909
Diane Elliott

HARNETT COUNTY

SAFE of Harnett County
PO Box 728
Lillington, NC 27546
Office: (910) 893-7233
Karen Jackson

HAYWOOD COUNTY

REACH of Haywood County
PO Box 206
Waynesville, NC 28786
Office: (704) 456-7898
Margaret Sluder

HENDERSON COUNTY

MAINSTAY Inc.
PO Box 359
Hendersonville, NC 28793
Office: (704) 693-3840
Salley Stepp

HERTFORD COUNTY

Roanoke-Chowan SAFE
PO Box 98
Ahoskie, NC 27910
Office: (919) 332-1933
Crisis: (919) 332-5993
Connie Piland

IREDELL COUNTY

Fifth Street Shelter Ministries
Diakonos Inc.
1400 5th Street
Statesville, NC 28677
Office: (704) 872-4045
Crisis: (704) 872-3403
Neil Furr

JACKSON COUNTY

REACH of Jackson County Inc.
PO Box 1828
Sylva, NC 28779
Office: (704) 586-8969
Crisis: (704) 586-2459
Jean Bocksthaler

JOHNSTON COUNTY

Harbor Inc.
PO Box 1903
Smithfield, NC 27577
Office: (919) 934-0233
Crisis: (919) 934-6161
April Marshall

LEE COUNTY

Family Violence & Rape Crisis
Center Inc.
223 Carthage St.
Sanford, NC 27330
Office: (919) 774-8923
Crisis: (919) 774-4520
Sherry Owensby

LENOIR COUNTY

SAFE in Lenoir County
PO Box 3092
Kinston, NC 28502-3092
Office: (919) 523-5573
Sue N. Lawson

MACON COUNTY

REACH of Macon County
PO Box 176
Franklin, NC 28734
Office: (704) 369-5544
Dot Hagedorn/Jeanette Cabanis

MADISON COUNTY

HELPMATE of Madison Inc.
PO Box 457
Marshall, NC 28753
Office: (704) 649-2446
Mary Hensley

MCDOWELL COUNTY

Family Services of McDowell County
PO Box 1572
Marion, NC 28752
Office: (704) 652-8538
Crisis: (704) 652-6150
Tom Bonner

MECKLENBURG COUNTY

United Family Services
Shelter for Battered Women
PO Box 220312
Charlotte, NC 28222
Office: (704) 332-2513
Nancy Nicholson

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Crisis Council Inc.
PO Box 0
Troy, NC 27371
Office: (910) 572-3749
Crisis: (910) 572-3747 or
1-800-CRISIS-1
Cathy H. Harris

MOORE COUNTY

Friend to Friend
PO Box 1508
Carthage, NC 28327
Office: (910) 947-3333
Bonnie Kalte

NEW HANOVER COUNTY

Domestic Violence Shelter and
Services Inc.
PO Box 1555
Wilmington, NC 28402
Office: (910) 343-0703
Mary Ann Lama

ONslow COUNTY

Onslow Women's Center
PO Box 1622
Jacksonville, NC 28541
Office: (910) 347-4000
Constance Ryan

PASQUOTANK COUNTY

Albemarle Hopeline
PO Box 2064
Elizabeth City, NC 27909
Office: (919) 338-5338
Crisis: (919) 338-3011
Pat K. Youngblood

PENDER COUNTY

Safe Haven of Pender County Inc.
PO Box 657
Burgaw, NC 28425
Office: (910) 259-8989
Crisis: 1-800-259-8887
Ann Corbett

PERSON COUNTY

Safe Haven of Person County
PO Box 624
Roxboro, NC 27573
Office: (910) 599-7233
Crisis: (910) 599-7233
Leslie Terry

PITT COUNTY

New Directions
PO Box 13
Greenville, NC 27835-0013
Office: (919) 752-3811
Lorraine Chambers

POLK COUNTY

Steps to Hope
PO Box 518
Columbus, NC 28722
Office: (704) 894-3044
Crisis: (704) 892-2340
Rachel Ramsey

RANDOLPH COUNTY

Randolph County Family Crisis
Center Inc.
PO Box 2161
Asheboro, NC 27204-2161
Office: (910) 629-4159
Elaine Haigler

RICHMOND COUNTY

Richmond County Mental Health Soc.
Rainbow House
101 Rockingham Rd.
Rockingham, NC 28379
Office: (910) 582-1935
Crisis: (910) 582-1956
Barbara Foreman

Womenfolk Unlimited
Box 26
Hamlet, NC 28345
Office: (910) 582-4873
Judy Allison

ROBESON COUNTY

Southeastern Family Violence Center
PO Box 642
Lumberton, NC 28359-0642
Office: (910) 739-8622
Sharon Scott

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

HELP Inc.
PO Box 16
Wentworth, NC 27375
Office: (910) 342-3331
Mary M. Mooney

ROWAN COUNTY

The Rape, Child & Family Abuse
Crisis Council
131 W. Council Street
Salisbury, NC 28144
Office: (704) 636-4718
Crisis: (704) 638-1000
Elizabeth Patton

RUTHERFORD COUNTY

Family Resources of Rutherford
County
PO Box 845
Spindale, NC 28160
Office: (704) 286-3411
Kim Morgan

STOKES COUNTY

Stokes Task Force on Domestic
Violence
PO Box 55
Danbury, NC 27016
Office: (910) 593-9323
Brenda Sutton

SURRY COUNTY

Surry Task Force on Domestic
Violence Inc.
PO Box 1643
Mount Airy, NC 27030
Office: (910) 789-6808
Crisis: (910) 386-4046
Rebecca Carter

SWAIN COUNTY

Swain/Qualla SAFE Inc.
PO Box 1416
Bryson City, NC 28713
Office: (704) 488-9038
Crisis: (704) 488-6809
Lisa Barco-Bocook

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

SAFE of Transylvania County
PO Box 2013
Brevard, NC 28712
Office: (704) 885-7233
Roberta Hallinen

UNION COUNTY

Turning Point
PO Box 952
Monroe, NC 28111
Office: (704) 283-9150
Crisis: (704) 283-7233
Gloria Barrino

WAKE COUNTY

Interact
PO Box 11096
Raleigh, NC 27604
Office: (919) 828-7501
Crisis: (919) 828-7740
Lucinda Drago

WATAUGA COUNTY

Oasis Inc.
PO Box 1591
Boone, NC 28607
Office: (704) 264-1532
Crisis: (704) 262-5035
Jennifer Herman

WAYNE COUNTY

The Shelter of Wayne County, Inc.
PO Box 1581
Goldsboro, NC 27533
Office: (919) 736-1313
Crisis: (919) 735-4357; Beeper No:
(919) 731-8377
Barbara Arnold

WILKES COUNTY

SAFE of Wilkes County Inc.
PO Box 445
Wilkesboro, NC 28697
Office: (910) 667-7656
Crisis: (910) 838-7233
Lil Barrett

WILSON COUNTY

Wesley Shelter
PO Box 1423
Wilson, NC 27893
Office: (919) 291-2344
Crisis: (919) 237-5156
Diana Lucas

YADKIN COUNTY

Yadkin Valley Economic Development District
PO Box 309
Boonville, NC 27011
Office: (910) 367-7251
Dayle Haselden

NC COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

PO Box 51875
Durham, NC 27717
(919) 956-9124 — Kathy Hodges, Executive Director
(Adrienne Witherspoon — Technical Adviser)
(Debby Thonen — Office Manager)

**Above is not a comprehensive list. Please contact your local social services
office for further information.**

BIBLIOGRAPHY: LESBIAN AND GAY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Asherah, K. (1989). A survey of survivors of lesbian battering: Strategies utilized in leaving and healing. Unpublished master's thesis, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA. *
- Asherah, K. (1989). Survivors of lesbian battering questionnaire. San Jose State University, San Jose, CA. *
- Baldino, J. (nd). Lesbians in shelters. Lesbian Services Program.
- Bender, R. (1987, January). Lesbian survivors. Freeing Our Lives, UCD Rape Prevention Education Program Newsletter, Davis, CA. *
- Benowitz, M. (1986). How homophobia affects lesbians' response to violence in lesbian relationships. In K. Lobel (Ed.), Naming the violence: Speaking out against lesbian battering. Seattle, WA: Seal Press. *
- Bergeron, J. (1987, October/November). Asian women and domestic violence. Phoenix Rising, p. 5. *
- Borkovitz, D. (1989, January 15). Making communities safe for battered lesbians. Gay Community News, p. 5.
- Brand, P., & Kidd, A. (1986). Frequency of physical aggression in heterosexual and female homosexual dyads. Psychological Reports, 59, 1307-1313. *
- Brown, E. (1990, April). It was a woman who killed her. Gay Community News, 17(39), pp 3-4.
- Califia, P. (1986, March 4). Battered lovers. Advocate, 441, pp. 42-46. *
- Card, (1989). Defusing the bomb: Lesbian ethics and horizontal violence. Lesbian Ethics, 3, 91.
- Chrystos, (1986). "What did he hit you with?" the doctor said. In K. Lobel (Ed.), Naming the violence: Speaking out against lesbian battering (pp.19-20). Seattle: Seal Press. *
- Combs, V. (1983). Supportive response to lesbians in crisis. Lesbian Sensitivity Training Packet. *
- Comment, (1982). The defending of accused homosexuals: Will society accept their use of the battered wife defense? Glendale Law Review, 3, 208.

APPENDIX M

- Griswold, B. (1990, August). On relationships: Another closet. Entre Nous, Sunnyvale, CA. *
- Grossholtz, J. (nd). A draft statement on lesbian battering for the NCADV. Unpublished manuscript. *
- Grover, J. (1988). Battered lesbians are battered women. Paper presented at the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence Conference. Seattle, WA.
- Grover, J. (1989). Children from violent lesbian homes. The NCADV Child Advocacy Task Force Bulletin, 3, 1-3.
- Hallock, B. (1982, January/February). Guess who's coming for shelter? Focus: A Journal for Lesbians, 20-23. *
- Hammond, N. (1986). Lesbian victims and the reluctance to identify abuse. In K. Lobel (Ed.), Naming the violence: Speaking out against lesbian battering (pp. 190-197). Seattle: Seal Press. *
- Hart, B. (1986). Lesbian Battering: An examination. In K. Lobel (Ed.), Naming the violence: Speaking out against lesbian battering (pp. 173-189). Seattle: Seal Press. *
- Hietbrink, A. (1984, October). Battered lesbians. Coming Up, 5(1) pp. 11-13. *
- Hirshorn, H. (1984, June). The tip of the iceberg: Lesbian battering. Womanews, p. 5.
- Hornstein, S. J., & N. Porat. (nd). Domestic violence by and against women: An interview about lesbian violence, excerpted from KALX Radio, Berkeley, CA. *
- Island, D., & Letellier, P. (1990). The inner closet: Gay men's domestic violence.
- Jamakaya. (1988, July/August). Sisternews and views. Wisconsin Light, p. 12.
- Kanuha, V. (1990). Compounding the triple jeopardy: Battering in lesbian of color relationships. Diversity and complexity in feminist therapy. New York: Haworth Press.
- Kaufman, P. A., Harrison, E., & Hyde, M. L. (1984). Distancing for intimacy in lesbian relationships. American Journal of Psychiatry, 141, 528-533.

- Lobel, K. (Ed.). (1986). Naming the violence: Speaking out against lesbian battering. Seattle, WA: Seal Press. *
- Loulan, J. (1988). Research on the sex practices of 1566 lesbians and the clinical applications. Women and Therapy, 8, 221-234. *
- M. (1988, February). What it means to be battered? Matrix, p. 3. *
- Marie, S. (1984). Lesbian Battery: An inside view. Victimology: An International Journal, 9, 16-20. *
- Martin, A. (1983, February). Breaking the silence. Coming Up, pp. 1-3. *
- Martin, D. (1985). Homophobia, sex roles and domestic violence. Western Center on Domestic Violence Review, 10(2), 1, 10. *
- Massachusetts Coalition of Battered Women Service Groups. (1988, May 22-28). Confronting lesbian battering. Gay Community News, P. 5.
- Miller, P. (1990). The invisible victims; Lesbians and gay men. In P. Elliot (Ed.), Confronting lesbian battering: A manual for the battered women's movement. St. Paul: Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women. *
- Morrow, S. L., & Hawxhurst, D. M. (1989). Lesbian partner abuse: Implications for therapists. Journal of Counseling and Development, 68, 58-62. *
- Naidoff, L. (1986, December) Domestic violence: Out of the closet. KPFA Folio, p. 5. *
- Naidoff, L. (1987). Lesbian violence: No longer a secret. Bay Area Career Women, 11(2), pp. 1-2.
- National Association of Social Workers. (nd). Gay and lesbian social work practice: A special issue of practice digest. Silver Spring, MD.
- Nicarthy, G., Merriam, K., & Coffman, S. (1984). Talking it out: A guide to groups for abused women. Seattle: Seal Press. *
- Nicarthy, G. (1986). Getting Free. Seattle: Seal Press. *
- Nicarthy, G. (1987, May). Lesbian battering: Political principles and therapeutic methods. Paper presented at the Feminist Therapy Conference. Unpublished manuscript.

Zemsky, B. (1988, December 4). Lesbian Battering: A challenge to our community. Gay Community News, p. 21.

Zemsky, B., & Gilbert, L. (1989). Accountability matrix. Lesbian and gay counseling service. Minneapolis, MN. *

* On file at MPSN.

Resources for Domestic Violence

Organization

Resources Available

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
(800)842-4546 | Physician referrals for free facial reconstructive surgery to victims of domestic violence |
| 2. Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence
1914 North 34th, Suite 105
Seattle, Washington 98103-9058 | Information with special emphasis on religious aspects |
| 3. Domestic Violence Intervention Project*
National Training Project
206 West Fourth Street
Duluth, MN 55806
(218)722-4134
FAX (218)722-1545 | General Information
Workshops |
| 4. Domestic Violence Unit
San Diego Police Department
1401 Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101-5729
(619)531-2490 | General Information
Police Procedures |
| 5. Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence
(800)313-1310 | Packets regarding health care responses to domestic violence |
| 6. Massachusetts Medical Society
1440 Main Street
Waltham, MA 02154-1649
(617)893-4610 | Booklet: Campaign Against Domestic Violence |
| 7. Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women
1619 Dayton Avenue
Suite 303
St. Paul, MN 55104
(612)646-6177 | General Information
Books
Stickers/Pins/Posters |
| 8. National Center on Women & Family Law
799 Broadway Street
Suite 402
New York, NY 10003
(212)674-8200 | Publications (at cost) |
| 9. National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women*
FAX (215)351-0779 | Information on battered women's self-defense issues |

Handwritten:
H. Mary Manning
2/2/92

Handwritten:
Sally First
Manning

APPENDIX N

10. National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
P.O. Box 18749
Denver, CO 80218
(303)839-1852
General Information
11. National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
P.O. Box 8970
Reno, NV 89507
(800)52-PEACE
Books: State of the Art Court Practices in Family Violence; Criminal Cases Concerning Domestic Violence
12. National Domestic Violence Hotline
(800)799-7233
(800)787-3224
13. National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
6400 Flank Drive, Suite 1300
Harrisburg, PA 17112-2778
(800)537-2238
General Information
14. North Carolina Bar Association
P.O. Box 3688
Cary, NC 27519
(919)677-0561
Pamphlet: Domestic Violence and the Law (\$5 for 50 copies)
15. North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCCADV)
P.O. Box 51875
Durham, NC 27717-1875
(919)956-9124
General Information
Video checked for me
16. Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence*
FAX (610)373-6403
Information on civil court access and legal representation issues of battered women
17. Resource Center on Child Protection and Custody
(800)527-3223
Information related to child protection and custody

* Part of the Battered Women's Justice Project (800)903-0111